the Hippo
DECEMBER 19 - 25, 2013

A NEW *NUTCRACKER* P. 24
MONSTER TRUCKS P. 32

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Education continues to be a flash point in our communities, our state and our nation — and that's a good thing.

As a community and a greater nation at large, America tends to self reflect, and nowhere do we do more of that than education. Two items in the news recently best illustrate this: the controversy over Common Core standards and contract negotiations with teachers.

Common Core has raised the hackles of both the left and the right. Common Core is a set of nationally based standards of what kids should be learning, specifically in English and math. In New Hampshire, groups are forming to oppose adoption of those standards because they say, alternatively, the standards are too lax and/or were developed at a national level. Others oppose them because, similar to No Child Left Behind, they are about standardizing education and testing for it in a way that takes away creativity.

Those in favor say the standards are just a measuring post to make sure that kids from all schools learn the basics. Colleges have been warning (and complaining) that kids come to college without some basic skills. There's also been concern that in a global economy we're falling behind other nations and losing our competitive edge.

The teacher contact issue intersects with the Common Core controversy because teacher performance tends to get pulled into those talks, as do the ways in which teachers are evaluated and compensated.

Manchester's school board recently (unanimously) gave Mayor Ted Gatsas (a notoriously tough negotiator) sole responsibility to negotiate with the city's teacher union. Expect a public struggle. Just as in the Common Core controversy, much of what is being negotiated is how to make the city's education better. The mayor wants to keep spending down and lower benefits and raises to teachers — the district's largest costs — while the teachers want more money spent on education, specifically on salaries and benefits. The rub here comes down to how to fairly set compensation and how much should be spent on education at large. These are good talks to have.

Even though the mayor and the union are at opposite ends of the table, they have a chance to sit together and agree on some basic common goals. They want kids to graduate ready to work or go to college and excel. How is that done while being fair to teachers and taxpayers? Neither side can afford to see huge changes in what they pay or are paid.

The same goes for the Common Core debate. All sides agree that we want kids who know their stuff and graduate with the skills needed to excel in college or the trades. The question is, how to do we get there?

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14 Wrap up some sinful sweets and you'll be everyone's favorite gift giver. Whether you want to indulge your loved ones or kinda-liked neighbors with fancy store-bought truffles and fudge or you want to make your own, Emelia Attridge (and her handy Hippo helpers) have you covered.



Also on the cover, if you're looking for a new version of an old show, check out Northern Ballet's *Nutcracker* (p. 24). If you need something to look forward to once the holidays have passed, Monster Jam is coming to Manchester in January (p. 32). Plus, find out where to dine or order takeout on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, starting on p. 52.

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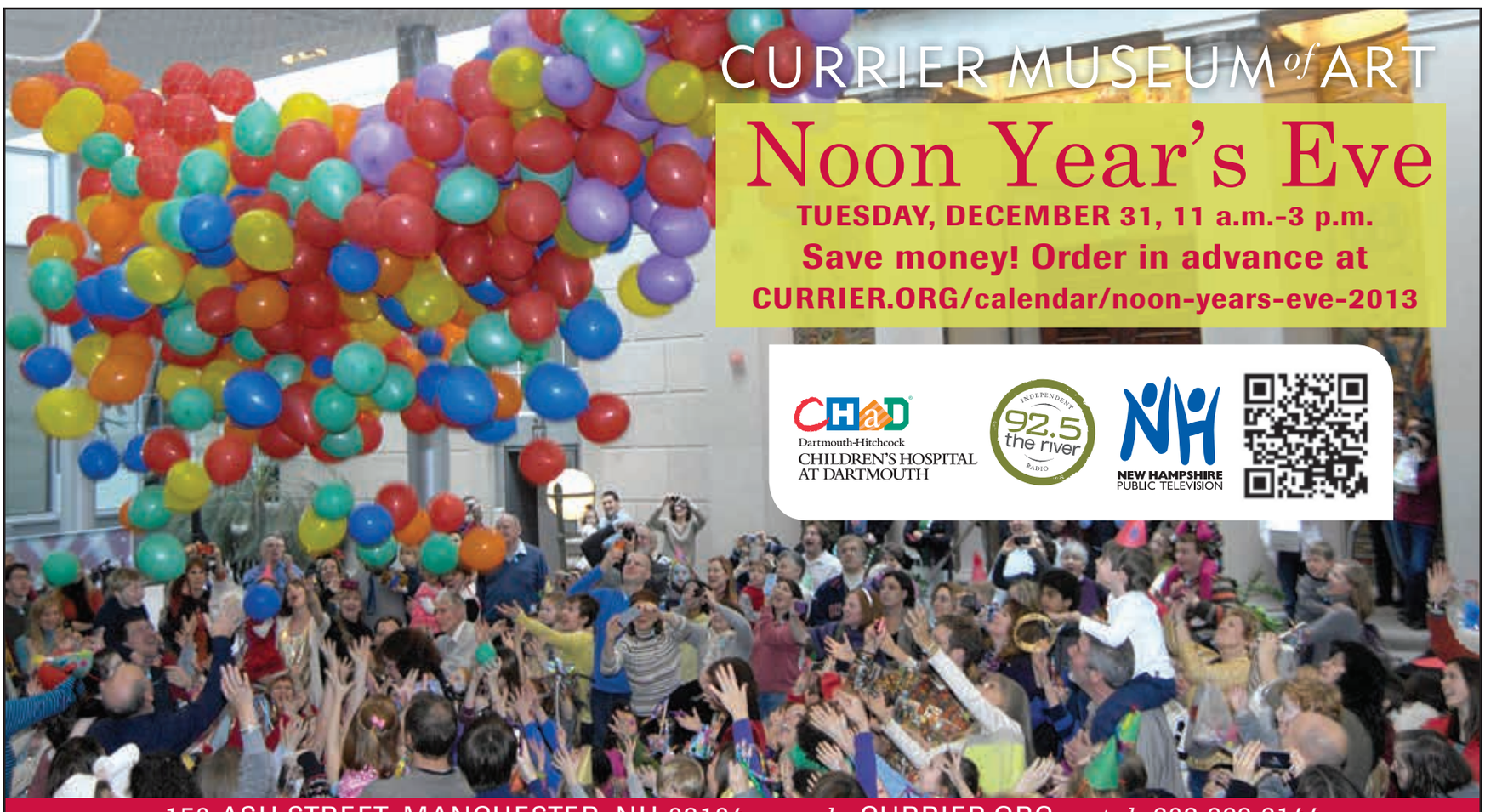
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NEWS & NOTES



Pollution petition

Gov. Maggie Hassan announced last week that New Hampshire has joined with seven other "downwind" states in petitioning the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to require upwind states to reduce air pollution generated within their borders, according to a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services release. The multi-state action is aimed at requiring nine upwind states — Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia — to reduce air pollution emissions that are carried by prevailing winds and contribute to the formation of ozone in downwind states, including New Hampshire.

In 1990 the Clean Air Act was re-written to target California and the Northeast, where pollution levels are high. New Hampshire has done all it can do to make the state significantly cleaner, officials said. But there are still times when ozone reaches unhealthy levels. On these days more than 95 percent of that ozone originates in upwind states, the release stated.

No exact change lanes

Gone are exact change lanes at the Dover and Rochester toll plazas on the Spaulding Turnpike, the New Hampshire Department of Transportation announced in a release. The change came after a sustained increased use of E-Z pass traffic and underuse of Automatic Coin Machine lanes. Coin baskets and ACMs were removed, and new equipment was added last week. Electronic message signs will be used in advance of the toll plazas to inform motorists of the change in the plaza layout. Motorists are reminded that toll attendants cross lanes frequently and that extreme caution is urged when traveling through any toll lane that accepts E-ZPass.

Smoking bans

The state Legislature will decide in 2014 whether to apply the state's indoor smoking ban to social, fraternal and religious clubs, the Concord Monitor reported last Sunday. Sen. Lou D'Allesandro, a Manchester Democrat, plans to introduce a bill next year that would expand the indoor smoking ban to include those clubs. The Concord Monitor reported mostly favorable opinions of the ban from members of social clubs including the Veterans of Foreign Wars and The American Legion who believe it would attract members rather than deter them. Others said the decision to ban or accept indoor smoking should be up to each club and not the state.

No. 3 Peace Corps state

New Hampshire ranks as the third top volunteer-producing state per capita in 2013, according to a list released by the Peace Corps last Wednesday. Five and a half of every 100,000 residents currently serving in the Peace Corps are New Hampshirites. The ranking marks an increase for New Hampshire, which ranked fourth in 2012. In addition two New Hampshire schools are nationally ranked on the 2013 lists of top Peace Corps volunteer-producing colleges and universities. The University of New Hampshire in Durham ranks 12th nationwide among medium-size schools while Dartmouth College in Hanover is No. 23 on the agency's list of small schools, according to a Peace Corps release.

Applicant-turned-thief

An 18-year-old man filled out a job application at a 7-Eleven store in Manchester before taking off with bottles of pink Champagne, according to an Associated Press report. Police said it wasn't difficult to track down the culprit, Chandra Gajmer, because he filled out a job application at the 7-Eleven at the back of the store before allegedly leaving with the bottled bubbly.

Hillside teacher wins

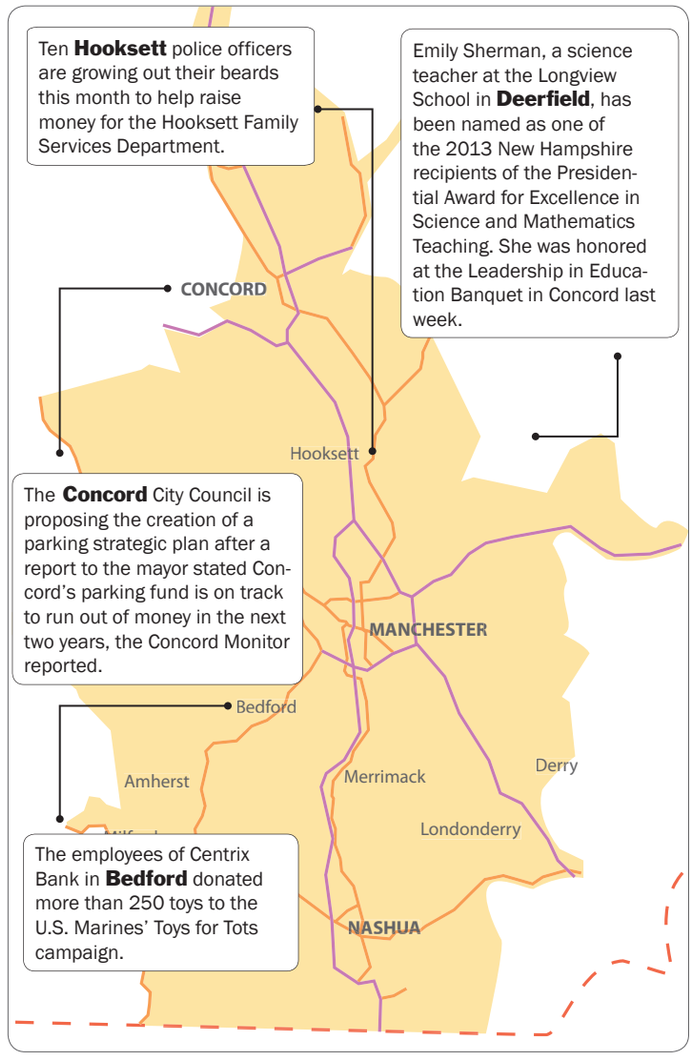
Hillside Middle School teacher Sue Hannan has been named a state winner in the 2014 Samsung Solve for Tomorrow contest. Hannan's entry was chosen for its innovative approach to advancing interest in STEM among her students as well as making an impact in the Manchester community, according to a release posted on the Manchester School District website. As a state winner, Hannan has earned at least $20,000 in Samsung technology for Hillside Middle School. Next she will represent New Hampshire in the national competition. She will create a two- to three-minute video that brings her lesson plan to life.

Limit portrait spending

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen and Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK) introduced bipartisan legislation last week to rein in excessive spending on oil paintings of government officials, according to a press release. The bill would put a cap on the amount of taxpayer support for the portraits and limit the practice to those officials in the line of succession for the presidency.

Healthcare competition

According to an NHPR report last week, Massachusetts-based nonprofit Minuteman Health has been approved by the Department of Health and Human Services to expand into New Hampshire and form a new health insurance co-op. Currently, Anthem is the only insurer providing health insurance coverage in the New Hampshire marketplace under the Affordable Care Act. New Hampshire locals will have more options when Minuteman Health moves in in 2015. Another Massachusetts-based non-profit, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, also says it's planning to enter the marketplace in 2015, NHPR reported.



Crash a suicide attempt

Former Fortune 500 executive Robert Dellinger has been released on bail after he allegedly killed an expectant couple in a crash while trying to commit suicide, according to the Associated Press. Police say Dellinger's pickup crossed the median of Interstate 89 in Lebanon and struck the couple's SUV. Dellinger faces two counts of reckless manslaughter.

BEST WEEK

NH HEALTH ENTHUSIASTS

New Hampshire ranked the fifth healthiest state in the nation, according to the 2013 United Health Foundation's America's Health Rankings report. A New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services release stated that during the past 10 years, graduation rates increased and cardiovascular deaths dropped. But the state still has some work to do. The percentage of children living in poverty increased in the past 10 years from 6.5 percent to 10.9 percent. There is also a high prevalence of binge drinking and a high rate of pertussis infections, the report said.

WORST WEEK

NASHUA AUCTION WATCHERS

To the disappointment of Nashua residents who were looking forward to an entertaining event, the Frank E. Anderson House was sold last week before the Concord Street mansion could go to auction. The long-anticipated absolute auction that was scheduled for last Thursday was canceled after news of sale to an unknown buyer broke, according to the Telegraph. The historic mansion was built at the turn of the 19th century. It has been a school and most recently a home for retired nuns. The Sisters of Mercy put the house on the market for $2.3 million last October.



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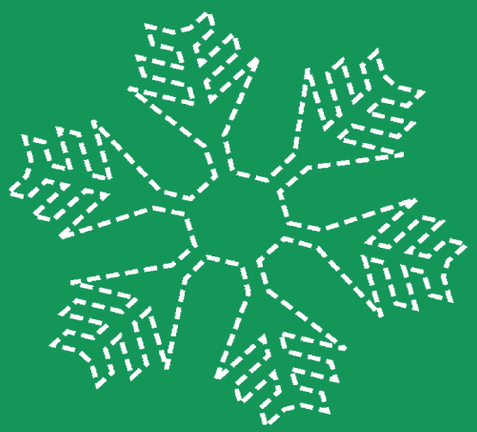
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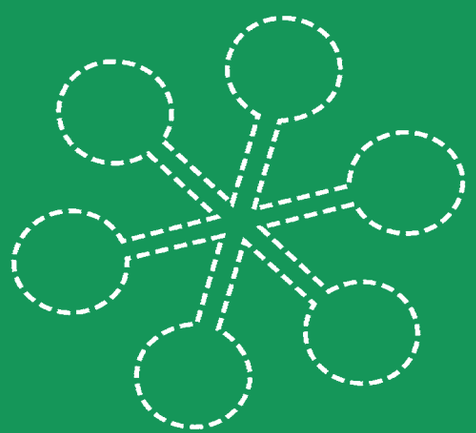
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NEWS

Givers beware

Charities with paid solicitors not getting much bang for their bucks

By Rebecca Fishow
rfishow@hippopress.com

It's the season for charitable giving, but beware. The New Hampshire Office of the Attorney General released a report last week that revealed that 80 percent of charities that use paid solicitors receive 25 percent or less of the money donated.

"Similar to 'buyers beware,' there has to be 'givers beware," said Anne Edwards, interim director of Charitable Trusts. "I think the findings are going to be surprising to the public, especially to people who tend to donate to phone or mail solicitations."

The 24-page report is the first of its kind for New Hampshire. It lists the names of charities and nonprofits that reported on charitable campaigns from December 2012 to October 2013. Information on the report includes the names of the paid solicitors they hired to run each campaign, a breakdown of each campaign's gross revenues, expenses paid to the solicitors, the total balance to the charity, and the percentage of the gross revenues the charities actually received.

Necessary evil

While the low percentages of money to the charity can be troubling to donors, some charities and nonprofits still find paid solicitors beneficial. In some cases even a considerably small percentage can mean large cash dollars. New charities also do not have established donor lists to contact, so it makes more sense for them to hire paid solicitors. And even though the charities won't see large returns, they are building name recognition, Edwards said.

"You have to look at the expenses that are associated with raising money," said David Lang, president of the Professional Firefighters of New Hampshire, an organization that has paired with paid solicitors to raise money for a variety of outreach projects. "It's not cheap. … Some people would say, 'Why not just have people send money in directly?' But how many folks would automatically send in without getting a call from people who let them know what we are doing?"

Not all New Hampshire charities use paid solicitors, Edwards said. For example, the Boys & Girls Club and the Animal Rescue League of New Hampshire have well-established donor lists and run their own local events, she said.

Small local charities may opt to hire paid solicitors because their manpower can be too small to get results, said Terry Knowles, assistant director of the office of the Attorney General's Charitable Trusts Unit.

"Basically our organization is run mostly by volunteers. If fundraisers are not being paid, then we get what we pay for," said Dana Hussey of the New Hampshire Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Paid solicitors' speech rights are highly protected under federal law. In the 1980s the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that these companies have the right to speak as the charities they represent and do not have to announce themselves as for-profit companies.

The New Hampshire report is the first in response to a bill passed during the last state legislative session, and new reports will be published regularly.

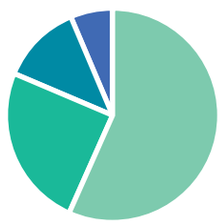
"They decided they would like that information shared with the public so people can see how much of their money is going to charity and how much going to paid solicitors," Edwards said.

Fraud a problem too

The report calls attention to a slew of other red flags associated with potential charity fraud, Edwards and Knowles said. The New Hampshire Office of the Attorney General was involved with the national investigation of Bobby Thompson, who solicited an estimated $100 million worldwide. Last November Thompson was sentenced to a minimum of 10 years in prison on 23 charges of theft, money laundering, and other offenses.

After the nationally visible case, "We started looking at it here as well," Edwards said. "We advise givers to be cautious of veterans organizations, because as far as we

The Cost of Campaigns



Percent of money received by charities and nonprofits after fees and expenses went to paid solicitors for charitable campaigns from December 2012 to October 2013, according to the state Attorney General's report.

Here's a breakdown of how three charity campaigns fared after salaries and expenses were paid to the solicitors the charities hired. For a complete list go to *doj.nh.gov/charitable-trusts/documents/paid-solicitor-disclosure.pdf.*

Humane Society of the United States hired Donor Services Group, LLC
Nov. 1, 2011 to Oct. 31, 2012

$1,297,320.00	- $605,575.22	- $708 332.78	-$16,588.00 (0%)
Gross revenue	Solicitor salary	Other expenses	Net gain

VFW of the U.S., Department of NH hired Landmark Productions Corporation
Jan. 1, 2012 to Dec. 10, 2012

$189,326.00	- $98,319.00	- $43,676.00	$47,331.83 (25%)
Gross revenue	Solicitor salary	Other expenses	Net gain

Colby-Sawyer College hired RuffaloCody, LLC
Nov. 5, 2012 to June 30, 2013

$111,759.92	- $15,842.35	- $6,637.65	$89,279.92 (79.89%)
Gross revenue	Solicitor salary	Other expenses	Net gain

Stay protected and informed before making charitable donations

Advice from the charitable trusts unit of the state Office of the Attorney General

- Research each charity before you give to them.
- Decide which charities you want to give to and the amount you want to give in advance.
- Do not feel compelled to give, even if an organization sends you pretty cards or calendars.
- Learn to say "no" or hang up during high-pressure telephone calls.
- Ask the solicitor how much money is actually going to the charity.
- Give directly to charities if you are uncomfortable donating through paid solicitors.
- Never provide personally identifying information such as your credit card number, bank account number, social security number or birth date.
- Ask for any request for a donation to be provided to you in writing.

can tell there are several organizations that will misuse the good name of vets as a way to raise money but don't provide anything to New Hampshire veterans."

The charitable trust unit is working on a separate report regarding the state's veterans organization that will be released in the spring, Edwards said. Until then, she advised donors who want to support veterans to stick to tried and true New Hampshire veterans organizations like the VFW and the American Legion.

"With some of the other [charities], we're not sure who they are and we're not sure what their services are," she said.

But fraudulent charitable organizations are not confined to veterans groups. "Copycat" charities choose names similar to well-established ones so that prospective givers get confused as to who they are giving their money to. In the past few years, the Attorney General's office has discovered a handful of entities where money was being raised in the name of charity but was pocketed instead, Knowles said.

"The sad part of the solicitation is those folks who come in … and pencil whip phony pledge organizations," Lang said. "They have names that sound legit, and people who support us get fooled. … That's really the real sad part of this, because it hurts charities."

Digital dough

Some NH businesses accepting digital currency

By Rebecca Fishow
news@hippopress.com

Mark Edge never expected to earn money out of a lunch date. But that's what happened in 2011 when he met with a supporter of his New Hampshire-based nationally syndicated radio show, *Free Talk Live*. The supporter, Gavin Andresen, asked to meet Edge at a Keene Thai restaurant to talk about Bitcoin. As they enjoyed their meals Andresen, who is the head director of the Bitcoin project, filled in Edge about the online currency.

At the end of the meal Edge picked up the tab, and Andresen paid him back in Bitcoins. At the time a single Bitcoin was worth about 25 cents, so Andresen gave Edge 36 digital coins. Two weeks ago, Bitcoin's value hit the $1,000 per coin mark for the first time ever.

New Hampshire has become a hotspot for Bitcoin buyers, especially in the Free Staters community. The alternative digital currency made its debut in 2009. What began as an obscure project of Internet techies has gained momentum internationally. In New Hampshire, libertarians and Free Staters are attracted to Bitcoin because it cuts out middlemen like banks and credit card companies.

"Why should I pay 5 percent to change my dollars into Canadian dollars?" Edge said. "It kills off a lot of inefficiency in the marketplace."

When Edge first learned about Bitcoin, the concept of electronic money with actual value confused him. Then he did his own research and began to think of the currency as in terms of online games. In some games, there is artificial scarcity of items, and gamers can purchase them with real money.

"I thought, clearly things on the Internet can be of value," Edge said.

A Bitcoin is bought and sold digitally and stored in a "digital wallet." It is similar to the U.S. dollar, the Euro and other national currencies, but the system isn't controlled by any country. Bitcoins can be bought online at websites like cashincoins.com. Instead of a third-party transaction system like a credit card company to verify the validity of payments, Bitcoin's oversight comes from people who work as "miners" from their home computers.

"The hard part is, how do you get the middle man out of the way," said Matthew Carano, owner of the Pao Cafe in Newmarket, where Bitcoin is an accepted form of payment. "The mining system is so revolutionary, so brilliant that it's absolutely fascinating. I'm definitely really drawn to it for many reasons beyond as a business person. It's revolutionary to have a peer-to-peer transaction system."

Today Bitcoin is still primarily used by people hoping to earn money as the coins' values increase, much like the use of the stock market. But it's beginning to catch on as an accepted form of currency in select stores in New Hampshire.

"More and more businesses are want-



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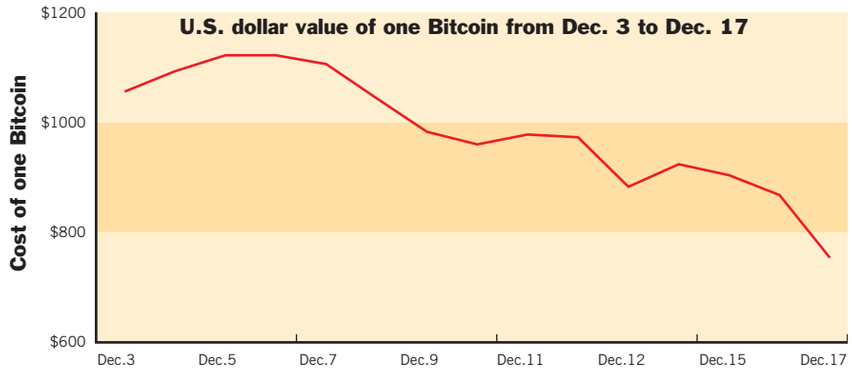
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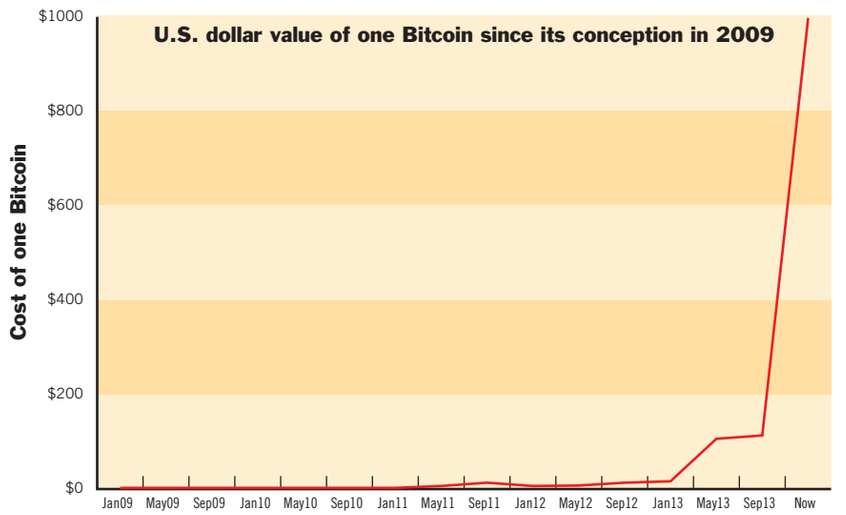
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ing to get into Bitcoin," Edge said. "It takes less work to take Bitcoins than it takes to use credit cards. It's a slow progression that is being adopted here and there."

Corey Hebert, owner of Vertical Dreams in Manchester and Nashua, started accepting Bitcoin as a form of payment about a year ago after a frequent customer asked him if he ever considered accepting them. Hebert did some research of his own and decided to give it a go. He expected that initial customer to be the only person who would pay with Bitcoin, but since then about 10 customers have repeatedly used it to pay.

"The biggest benefit is it bypasses the bank. I pay a lot in credit card fees," Hebert said. "Also, the price has gone up. It's become a good investment. That was an unexpected bonus."

Circumventing credit card fees is a huge incentive for businesses, said Carano. If a restaurant has a profit of 10 percent, 4 percent of that could go to paying credit card processing fees. But Bitcoin processing is ultimately free, he said.

"If you don't have any fees it can really add to your bottom line," Carano said.

Carano holds a monthly Bitcoin meetup at the Pao Cafe. Bitcoin users or people simply curious about the currency come to these meetups, which have became part of the Bitcoin culture, especially in Manchester and Keene, Carano said, where there's the largest community of Bitcoin users in the state.

"I feel like I learn a lot from any meetup that I go to because there are a lot of intricacies about Bitcoin. I feel like I pick up little nuances as I go," he said.

In the past couple weeks, countries including Germany and China have imposed regulations on the use of Bitcoin. Some New Hampshire Bitcoin users think that if Bitcoin continues to grow, the U.S. government could think of it as a threat to U.S. currency and make Bitcoin illegal.

"I don't think they see it as much of a threat right now, but if it fulfills its potential it can become a major alternative asset to the U.S. dollar," said Mike Finger, a Free Stater who owns Centinel Consulting in Portsmouth.

Finger said aside from Ron Paul, Bitcoin has made the largest leap from the Free Stater community to the mainstream.

For now the oversight is minimal. And for small businesses the risk involved with accepting the alternative currency is low, Hebert said.

Currently the price of Bitcoin is volatile, rising and falling much faster than the U.S. dollar. If customer usage became too great, the quick fluctuation of the coins' value could mean it would go down between the time a business owner receives them and the time he or she sells them for U.S. dollars. In that case, businesses may begin to use third parties to quickly turn their Bitcoins into cash as transactions are made.

"I think that's why a lot of bigger businesses wouldn't accept it," Hebert said. "But for me, it's a smaller risk."

Plausawa Valley Country Club

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SHAREHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

November 21, 2013

To All Plausawa Valley Associate Shareholder,

The sale of Plausawa Valley Country Club was finalized on 2/28/2012.

Plausawa Valley Associates Board prefer that you send in your actual stock certificates in order for us to mail you the payment for them. Certificates must have your name on them.

If you cannot find your certificates, please send a note to me stating how many shares you believe you had, and we will compare it to the records. We will send you a payment for the outstanding amount due to you according to our records.

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If you have any questions, I can be reached via email at Knute.klotz@philips.com

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Knute A. Klotz /PVA President

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Write on

NHIA creative writing program chair teaches the art of writing

The New Hampshire Institute of Art is making way for the next great literary voices. The fine arts college in Manchester kicked off its low-residency Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program this fall. Monica Bilson, the creative writing chair for the program, talks about skill versus art, the benefits of low-residency education and how we can "get" poetry.

Q: *Is creative writing a skill or an art?*

Both. You need very advanced skills to be any kind of artist. But great skill doesn't necessarily make great art.

How does a creative writing program fit into a visual arts school?

Many writers are interested in producing cross-genre works such as comics, graphic novels and children's books, which rely on illustration. Others are interested in using typography and design, or printmaking, or photography for "hybrid" or experimental works of fiction and poetry. But even for students interested in writing traditional stories, working alongside visual artists exposes them to alternative ways into a piece. You approach writing a scene quite differently if you borrow, for instance, a more impressionistic, cinematic or otherwise visual technique, and you might discover something you wouldn't have if you'd relied on traditional writing workshop skills.



Monica Bilson

What does a low-residency program offer?

A low-residency MFA means you are only on campus for two 10-day periods a year: one in January and one in June. The rest of the time you work independently, although you're in constant communication with an adviser and mentor as well as fellow students. But when you do your work is entirely up to you. It's ideal for someone with a family or job that doesn't allow them to attend regularly scheduled classes on campus.

What do aspiring writers learn better from MFA classes than from a bookshelf?

There are various modes of reading. When you read as a writer, you're looking for different things than if you're reading in an English class or for fun. You're pulling back the hood, to use a car metaphor, to see how the thing works. I don't think that comes naturally; it takes practice and a good writing workshop offers that. Another thing that happens in workshop is peer critiques. ... You actually learn more when you critique your peers' work than when your own work is critiqued.

MFA programs are on the rise, yet some might argue that with the popularity of TV and now the Internet, reading is no longer a national pastime. Any thoughts?

I'm not sure reading is less of a national pastime now than in the past. If you have access to the Internet you have more access to books than ever. Lots of writers publish on the Internet, or write blogs on the Internet, or publish in e-journals, or discover each other and hold online workshops. So in many ways the Internet has opened up the writing community and offers aspiring writers more opportunities.

How do you teach someone to be a better creative writer?

Keep exposing them to different writers and styles of writing, even genres they never thought they'd write in. Make a fiction writer read and write poetry, and eventually, they will find their distinct voice that isn't like anyone else's. I've had students who came in wanting to write science fiction and left writing some kind of cross between Cormac McCarthy and Haruki Murakami.

What's an MFA program's role in the local community?

[To] provide lots of public lectures and readings and exhibitions! I also hope that some of our second-year students will start teaching community education workshops. We offer those in Manchester and Sharon, but we'd like to offer even more.

People like to say, "I don't get poetry." How can they learn to get it?

This is a great question. I recommend reading Stephen Fry's book, *The Ode Less Traveled*. It's a really entertaining book regardless of how you feel about poetry. Also, you must read poetry aloud or listen to it. Finally, remember [that] nursery rhymes and songs you like are, fundamentally, poetry. Set a poem to a melody and sing it! — *Rebecca Fishow*

Five favorites

Favorite book: *Mrs. Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf
Favorite movie: *Raise the Red Lantern*
Favorite type of music: electronica
Favorite food: Korean
Favorite thing about NH: White Mountains



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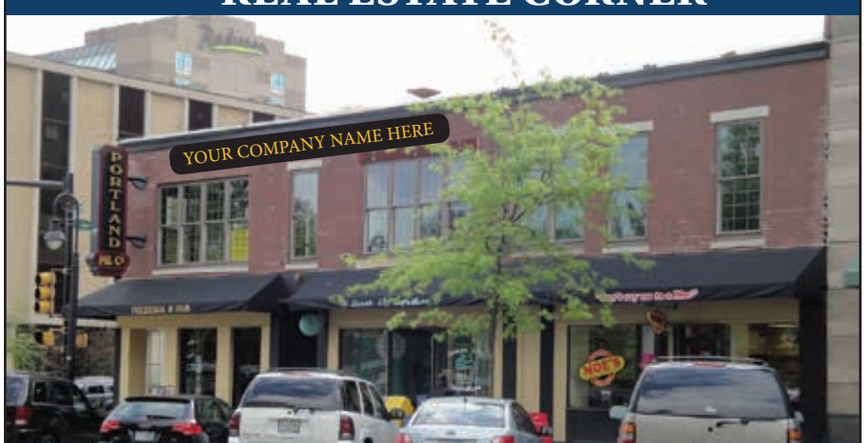
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NEWS & NOTES

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

Crowned champions of Rock-Paper-Scissors

The Derryfield School hosted a very successful state-wide Rock-Paper-Scissors tournament last weekend. The competition was open to students from all middle and high schools in the state, and a whopping 35 sent representatives. It was comprised of four "thrilling" rounds of intense hand-to-hand competition, according to a press release, with first place going to Rebekah Johnson, a 9th-grade student from Concord Christian Academy. Second place went to Matthew Shipley, a 6th grader who traveled all the way from Lebanon Middle School to compete, and third, Sean Healy, from Newmarket High School. The best part about this event? It was organized by Jack Miron, a 9th grader from Derryfield.

QOL Score: +1

Comment: *The idea for the event, Miron said in an interview with the Hippo last week, came from a book he read detailing how the game wasn't just a game of luck but of strategy and psychology.*

Unicorns for Christmas

Got $1.86 million? For that much, you could get what young children (and fantasy readers) only dream about this Christmas season: a pair of two purebred unicorns. About three weeks ago, someone from Goffstown posted an ad on Craigslist with the intent to sell these two unicorns, Pagasus and Daisy, though the breeders request "serious inquiries only." The ad describes them as the only "fully licensed unicorn breeders" in North America, which, according to WMUR, sparked interest across the internet. The ad states that the breeders offer unicorn eggs for purchase, too. But be wary; they require lots of attention, as unicorns are "hand-fed" from birth.

QOL Score: +1

Comment: *You can find this posting by going to the "Best of Craigslist" section of Craigslist. QOL takes no responsibility for all the other strangeness in that section.*

Bad dog!

Mail carriers have avoided Cornell Street in Concord for more than a year because an aggressive pit bull keeps ambushing them, according to a WMUR report last week. Some of the street's residents, including the owners of the quarrelsome dog, have put up mailboxes on nearby streets. The U.S. Postal Service is asking the city to approve a six-unit "delivery receptacle" three blocks from Cornell Street, but that may not be enough to satisfy some Cornell Street residents who want their home delivery back.

QOL Score: -1

Comment: *Isn't the U.S. Postal Service suffering enough? In an effort to tackle spiraling losses, Canada's postal service will phase out urban home delivery and raise the cost of postage stamps to a dollar within the next five years. Will the U.S. Postal Service follow suit?*

Amazing Race for Saint Anselm alumni

Saint Anselm College alumni Jason Case and his girlfriend Amy Diaz (no relation to Hippo editor Amy Diaz) finished the 35,000-mile race in Juneau, Alaska, holding hands. On the CBS show, Case and Diaz competed against 10 couples and traversed four continents and nine countries, including Abu Dhabi, Chile and Austria. They took home five second-place finishes before earning the final $1 million prize.

QOL Score: +1

Comment: *In a CBS interview, Case said he and Diaz began the race "at each other's throats," but the experience taught them how to get along and respect each other in stressful situations. Genius — they essentially underwent couples therapy and got paid for it!*

QOL score: 73
Net change: +2
QOL this week: 75

What's affecting your Quality of Life here in New Hampshire? Let us know at news@hippopress.com.





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Presents for sports guys

With Christmas just a few days away, it's time to hand out our annual presents for the holidays. They go to the following:

Rob Gronkowski: A little luck on the injury front, as six surgeries on various parts of your body in a year is a bit much for anyone.

Patriot Nation: Hope that all those injuries won't dim the fight and abilities that make the Gronk so special.

Gary (the sky is falling) Tanguay: The likable Comcast Sports Net host gets a bit more perspective, a better memory and a little backbone. So instead of sitting there cowering on his nightly show while whining, "I just don't see how the Pats can win the Super Bowl without the Gronk," he remembers they went 11-5 *after* **Tom Brady** went down in 2008 and won the 2004 SB *after* both starting corners went down for gone by Game 7 forcing **Randall Gay**, **Hank Poteat** and **Earthwind (and fire) Moreland** to play serious minutes in the defensive backfield as slot corner **Asante Samuel** rose to the occasion to be the lead guy. And so he also might see that watching gritty players not giving up to fight it out in the face of adversity can provide as much reward as winning it all does, even if there's eventual disappointment at the end.

The Yankees: The A-Rod suspension is upheld, so they have a little more money to refurbish the team to make it more interesting with the Sox in 2014 — although it will be hard to find anyone to sports hate as easily as him.

Doc Rivers: A fate with the Clippers unlike what's befallen every coach with the paper Clips the last 30 years, along with thanks for the class you conducted yourself with in Boston.

To The Anti-Doc Crowd: A memory to know that if **John Y. Brown** had stayed Celtics owner **Red Auerbach** would have left to become Knicks GM. Plus the sense to get over it, because (a) Doc leaving was good, because developing young players ain't his thing, (b) a guy who does that well arrived in his place, and (c) they got a first-round pick in return. How is that not a win for all?

Paul Pierce: After a tough start in Brooklyn, a second wind for his probable final campaign, because despite my irritation for the occasional loss of focus due to "athletic A.D.D.," he was a great Celtic for a long time and that was a pleasure to watch.

The 24/7 Media: A little perspective, to understand that not every story is on par with the Hindenburg disaster. And here's a start: the Miami bully-gate story. While loutish behavior from a corn-head farm boy to a 320-pound 23-year-old offensive tackle may be inappropriate workplace behavior, sorry, it's not the same as bigger kids bullying a 12-year-old at school.

Richie Incognito: A book titled *The Idiot's Guide To Understanding If You Are An Idiot Or Not* — to help him figure out … he is.

Jonathan Martin: A better place to work in his next job and a little toughness, so if a guy treats him badly again he can tell him where to stick it.

Jon Lester: Continued understanding you have to go after hitters and not nibble, and an understanding that if you want to break the bank with a seven-year deal, it'll be in another locale.

Jacoby Ellsbury: Continued good health in the Big Apple, a standing O when he steps into the box for the first time at Fenway and a little chin music on the first pitch after that to let him know he now plays for the enemy.

John Farrell: A Manager of the Year trophy in 2014, because he got jobbed this year.

Bobby Valentine: After his chaotic stint in Boston, a little peace down there at Sacred Heart and a visit from the Ghost of Christmas Big Mouths Past, who shows sometimes it's OK to keep it zipped.

John Henry: Despite what some say, a hearty thanks for being the best Red Sox owner ever, and for keeping ownership of the Boston Globe with creative, effective local business minds, because that gives an important civic institution its best chance to stay vital in the cloudy media and economic environment of the day.

Celtic Nation: The complete collapse of the Hawks and Nets so they get at least one spot in the lottery for a shot at one of the big three.

LeBron James: The wisdom to opt out in Miami to make his legacy even larger by coming to Boston to lead **Bill Russell**'s Celtics back to the top of the NBA, where they belong.

The NFL Schedule-Makers: Thanks for keeping the Manning-Brady rivalry hot with annual games, because it's probably the greatest one-on-one rivalry in NFL history.

Stevan Ridley: While I think his fumble issues are a bit overdone — **Tom Brady** has eight fumbles and 18 turnovers and nobody says anything about that — he gets three tubes of superglue to hold onto the ball better because with Gronk down they need his running more than ever.

The Commissioners of All 4 Major League Sports: A big lump of coal in the stocking for putting network TV money over fan interests EVERY TIME and for all the baloney spewed when a bad story breaks, like the Mitchell Report absolving compliant owners who knew and financially benefited from steroids in lieu of letting just the players take the rap.

Super Bowl 48: A huge snow storm in the NYC area to pay **Roger Goodell** and company back for putting fans outside at night in February for the game, and so fans see something different — a title game where teams deal with the elements, as it used to be in the good old days.

Happy holidays to all!

Dave Long can be reached at dlong@hippopress.com.

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1993 Queen City Invitational Hoop Tourney Goes West

Bill Clinton was finishing off year one in the White House, the Dow Jones hit a record high of 3,793, **Donald Trump** married **Marla Maples** and nasty **Shannon Doherty** thankfully had just been fired from Beverly Hills 90210. It was Christmas week in 1993 and the 31st annual Queen City Invitational Basketball Tournament was underway. It was an eventful tournament, though Manchester West's 76-52 blow-out of Keene in the Final wasn't even in the Top 5. There was Oyster River sophomore **Keith Friel** – soon to be on his way to stardom at Virginia. He had 24 points in a win over Londonderry on day one and 30 more in his other two games. There was host Memorial trying to end a 50 plus game losing streak, which almost ended in the opener before Trinity rallied to win 57-55 behind 3 clutch foul shots from **Brian Hennessy** in the final minute. The Crusaders lead 44-33 in Game 2, but couldn't hold on and lost another heartbreaker, 60-58 to Central as **Paul Conway** scored 21 for the Green. But on Day 3 the streak ended at 59 with a 74-60 win over Laconia when **Jeff Remillard** had a game high 20 points. And finally there was the strange path of West, who rallied from 8 down with 5 minutes left to scrape by Central 53-51 in their opener as **Chris Dionne** scored the final 4 for the Blue Knights. They needed OT to get by Trinity via the strange overtime score of 78-69 on Day 2. Then dominated Keene in the paint to breeze home in the Final behind **Sam Kirchoff's** 14 points and 8 from MVP Sam Caray in what was a 3 day series of great events in Manchester.

088301

Sports Glossary

Hindenburg Disaster: Spectacular air disaster on May 6, 1937, where the helium-filled German air-ship Hindenburg became engulfed in flames while docking at the Lakehurst Naval Air Station in New Jersey. Amazingly 62 of the 97 passengers and crew somehow survived the high-above-courtside calamity. It was seen by stunned eyewitnesses and throughout the country shortly thereafter in movie theaters after being covered live by Newsreel cameras. Most stirring beyond the pictures was the live description by anguished radio man Herbert Morrison, who said in a cracking voice, "Oh, the humanity," and later, "This is the worst thing I've ever seen."

John Y. Brown: Last in a disastrous line of Celtics owners following the death of sainted **Walter Brown**. He vexed **Red Auerbach** to the point of nearly leaving to be GM of the Knicks, whom he also he hated, but just a tad less than John Y. The sticking point was making trades without consulting Red, which included a good one that sent center **Kevin Kunnert**, rookie **Freeman Williams** and **Kermit Washington** to Buffalo in return for crazy **Marvin Barnes**, small forward **Billy Knight** and **Tiny Archibald**, a key player on the 1981 championship team. The final straw was sending the three first-round picks Red had accumulated to New York for **Bob McAdoo** because his wife, former Miss America and CBS, ahem, sportscaster **Phyllis George**, liked him. But just before Red took the shuttle to the Apple, Brown decided to sell the team. That left Red around to swindle Detroit GM/Coach **Dick Vitale** (yes that one) in a deal regifting McAdoo to the Piston for **ML Carr** and the two first-round picks Red later turned into **Robert Parish** and **Kevin McHale**.

Bill Russell's Celtics: Winners of 11 titles in 13 years and the standard by which all great dynasty teams should be judged.

Earth, Wind and Fire: Chicago-based band that was big for a time in the '70s and '80s playing a wide range of musical types from R&B to soul and jazz to pop, rock, funk and even gospel, according to Wikepedia. But calling them "one of the most critically acclaimed bands of the 20th century" seems a bit of a stretch.

UNH goes to NCAA semifinals

The Big Story: If you asked in August "Who wants to go to North Dakota in December?" you'd probably get a lot of blank faces and "not me"s. But the answer now is the U! Not "you" but the U of NH, who, after Saturday's thrilling comeback 20-17 win over Southeastern Louisiana, will make its first ever appearance in the semifinal of the NCAA Football Tournament in the frozen tundra of North Dakota against North Dakota State. It will be no small undertaking as NDS is undefeated at 13-0, has won 22 straight and is the two-time defending champion. To get the upset UNH will need another strong game from QB **Sean Goldrich**, who was sensational in going 24-35 and 274 yards passing vs. SEL; he scored all three UNH TDs, including the game-winner on a 2-yard run with 47 seconds left after driving the team 80 yards.

Sports 101: Just nine managers have won three or more World Series titles in baseball. How many can you name?

Hot Ticket: It's the 51st annual Queen City Invitational Basketball Tourney at Manchester Memorial. It begins at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 26, when Bedford takes on Exeter. That's followed by Merrimack vs. Weaver High from Hartford, Conn., at 4:30 p.m., West vs. Central at 6 p.m. and Trinity vs. Memorial at 8 p.m. The semi-finals and finals are the next two nights.

Hot Ticket II: The Monarchs' annual New Year's Eve bash when the first-place M's close out 2013 vs. Providence at the V with game time at 7 p.m.

George Steinbrenner Grinch That Stole Christmas Award: To the Londonderry School board , which according to published reports last week sacked football coach **Jon Rich** after this year's 4-6 record despite two playoff appearances in his short tenure at LHS.

All Name Team: Could there be a more Italian sounding name coming from Rome, or in Red Sox Nation, than **Dom DiMaggio**? Well, OK, Corlioni and Conigliaro, for the name, but you get the idea. The fly in the ointment is the Rome in question is in upstate New York, and the sport isn't baseball. Instead this **Dom DiMaggio** is the goalie on the national champion SNHU soccer team, and yup the old man's name is **Joe DiMaggio** — which means there is a big baseball fan somewhere in the family tree.

Sports 101 Answer: The nine managers to win three or more World Series are **Casey Stengel** (8), **Joe McCarthy** (7), **Connie Mack** (5), **Joe Torre** (4) and **John McGraw**, **Miller Huggins**, **Walter Alston**, **Sparky Anderson** and **Tony LaRussa** (3 each).

On This Date – Dec. 19: **1976** – A Piper Cherokee aircraft crashes into the upper deck of Baltimore's Memorial Stadium 10 minutes after the packed stadium saw the Colts lose 40-14 to the Steelers in the AFC playoffs. No one seriously hurt. **Born: 1957 – Kevin McHale — Herman Munster** look-alike and Celtic all-timer. **Died: 2008 – Dock Ellis** —Pittsburgh's 1970s pitcher who claimed he no-hit San Diego in 1970 while on LSD.

The Numbers

10 – points scored each by **Kirsten Bresson** and **Amanda Murray** as the Bow girls' basketball team moved to 2-1 on the year with a 40-29 win over Kearsarge.

11 – catches good for 110 yards for UNH wide-out **RJ Harris** in the U's aforementioned 20-17 win over Southeastern Louisiana on Saturday.

22 – game-high points scored by Hooksett's **Mike Stys** as he grabbed 6 boards and handed out 4 assists in SNHU's 79-50 thumping of Assumption to push the Penmen back over .500 at 5-4.

51.7 – percentage of Derryfield's point total scored by **Hannah Comeau** when she had 15 points in the Cougars' 29-28 win over Newmarket in the season opener when **Hannah Menakaya** chipped in eight more and pulled in 12 rebounds for D-field.

52 – combined points from **Chris Santo** (29) and **Roy Mabrey** (23) as Saint Anselm ran away from Stonehill 97-81 on Tuesday.

4,000 – dollars raised for New Horizons of New Hampshire by last week's Coaches for a Cause Jamboree at Alvirne High.

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By Emelia Attridge
food@hippopress.com

'Twas the week before Christmas and nothing was wrapped. You've made up your list, and checked it twice, but there are still people to buy for, and you have no idea what to get them. We've all been there, with the picky siblings, the distant cousins, the co-workers, the kids' teachers — what can you get the people who don't like anything or whom you don't know well enough to know what they like?

There's a reason why sweet treats like fudge, flavored popcorn, seasoned nuts and chocolate truffles have stood the test of time for gift-giving — forget the fruitcake or the figgy pudding. The Hippo talked to Noah Munro from The Mill Fudge Factory, Doug Nelson at Nelson's Candies and Rich Tango-Lowy from Dancing Lion Chocolate about why confections like fudge, peanut brittle and chocolate truffles make perfect little presents, whether you buy them or make them yourself.

Many local business owners and NH Made vendors got their start by giving sweet gifts during the holidays. Candie Roux Goyette from Our Sister's Nuts used a popular family recipe to make her well-received gifts, and Michele Holbrook of Michele's Sweet Shoppe in Epsom used to give her treats to the bus driver as a special holiday thank-you.

Following suit, Hippo staff took to their kitchens and prepared a few recipes of their own, then shared whether they were worth the time and effort. The general consensus is that a batch of fudge or platter of peanut brittle wrapped in holiday ribbons makes a great gift with a personal touch. But if you still can't find the time to wrap popcorn balls in cellophane, you can always let the pros do the work for you.

Get poppin'

Before starting her own popcorn business, Michele Holbrook made white chocolate popcorn as gifts for her kids' teachers during the holidays.

"I would put it in little bags and give it to teachers and the bus driver," Holbrook said. "I think people like me that are somewhat crafty are always going to make their own gifts. … A lot of people don't have time to do it."

That's how Michele's Sweet Shoppe and Michele's Totally Awesome Gourmet Popcorn started. Originally, Holbrook was thinking about marketing whoopie pies, but family and friends persuaded her that her white chocolate popcorn recipe would be her key to success. She has been making gourmet popcorn for seven years, and it's been three years since the Epsom storefront opened.

Popcorn balls and popcorn tins are classic holiday gifts. Food network cooks like Ree Drummond of *The Pioneer Woman Cooks* and Paula Deen have their own popcorn ball recipes (not to mention the vast number of recipes on the popular social media site Pinterest, where DIY reigns). Popcorn balls are made from popped corn with corn syrup and sugar. Festive varieties include caramel, melted colored chocolates and candies drizzled into popcorn mixes.

Although Michele's Sweet Shoppe doesn't have popcorn balls, it has over 25 sweet, savory and seasonal popcorn flavors to choose from. The gourmet popcorn is available by the bag and in tins.

"That's our biggest seller this time of year," Holbrook said about the popcorn tins. "[They're great] if you have a yankee swap gift or you need something for a secret Santa gift."

The gourmet popcorn at Michele's comes in flavors like garlic and rosemary, cinnamon sugar, dark chocolate mint, peanut butter cup, mudslide and more. The most popular flavor is Buffalo Supreme, but the seasonal flavors for winter are also a hit.

There's Jack Frost Jumble, made with caramel popcorn, coated in white chocolate, mixed in with crushed pretzels, crushed almonds and cinnamon chips and drizzled in more white chocolate. The Nor'Easter is a caramel popcorn coated in milk chocolate, potato chips and honey-roasted peanuts, then drizzled in another layer of milk chocolate. Christmas Crunch is made with caramel popcorn, dried Craisins and cashews.

"Luckily, this year is the year for gourmet popcorn anyway," Holbrook said. "I think especially within the last two or three years it's become bigger than it used to be and evolved [into] more exotic things with popcorn."

Give it a try – Christmas Crunch

I admit, I love Pinterest. It's a social media site that allows users to "pin" ideas, recipes and images to digital versions of pinboards. It's a great tool for crafts, recipes and overall DIY activities. I had been meaning to try my hand at a popcorn snack recipe, and this one captured my attention because it looked so festive. The recipe was "pinned" from Cooking Classy, a recipe blog.

The recipe was extremely easy to follow, and it took me less than 15 minutes from start to finish. I already had a bag of pretzels in my pantry, along with leftover red and green sprinkles from cookie decorating last Christmas, so I only had to get the vanilla candy melts (available at Michael's and A.C. Moore) and a bag of M&Ms. If you had to go out and buy all the ingredients, it's still an affordable recipe. At the end, there's so much "Christmas Crunch," and it's so sweet, that this could be a great little gift for a large number of people. I also used kettle corn instead of popcorn. I thought that the sweetness of the kettle corn would work well with the chocolate.

Although I was intimidated by the chocolate melting part, it was easy, manageable and quick to clean up. The best part was that it looked just like the photo in the recipe (as opposed to the mutant popcorn monster I had feared). I would package up the popcorn in holiday cellophane with ribbon, which is now what I plan to do for friends and family this Christmas. It's a gift that's festive, colorful, delicious and easy, too.

— Emelia Attridge, Hippo staff writer

From Cooking Classy (cookingclassy.com)

½ cup popping popcorn kernels, or two bags tender white popcorn
1 (12-ounce) bag vanilla candy melts
1⅓ cups broken pretzel pieces
1 (12-ounce) bag green and red milk chocolate or mint M&Ms
Red, green and white sprinkles

Pop popcorn in a popcorn popper into a large bowl (or alternately in the microwave if using microwave bags of popcorn) according to manufacturer's directions. Remove any unpopped popcorn kernels. Toss in broken pretzel pieces and M&Ms. Melt vanilla candy melts in a microwave safe bowl on 50-percent power in 30-second intervals (or defrost for one minute, and then microwave for 30-second intervals), stirring after each interval until melted and smooth. Drizzle half of melted chips over popcorn mixture, then stir, tossing gently a few times with a rubber spatula. Then drizzle remaining half of melted chips over popcorn, and gently stir mixture until evenly coated (don't over stir though or your sprinkles won't stick if the white chips begin to set and harden). Pour mixture into a single layer onto wax paper. Sprinkle entire mixture evenly with sprinkles (as many as you'd like) before vanilla chips set. Allow to cool and harden, then gently break into pieces and store in an airtight container.

Oh, fudge

Fudge is a family matter for Noah Munro, owner of The Mill Fudge Factory.

"The original recipe that our fudges are based on comes from my Scottish grandfather — technically my step-grandfather," Munro said. "I started this business with my father and stepmother in 2006."

The fudge comes in 24 flavors, like Belgian chocolate and the original penuche recipe, made with butter, sugar, milk and honey. During the holidays — The Mill Fudge Factory's busiest time of year, Munro said — there are seasonal flavors like eggnog, cranberry maple nut, holiday mint and pumpkin.

"We do have some interesting flavors," Munro said. "Probably eggnog is our most popular seasonal flavor."

Real eggnog is used in the eggnog fudge recipe instead of dairy.

"Since it has more fat than regular milk, it comes out creamy, plus [we add] a touch of nutmeg," Munro said.

Instead of using ingredients like corn syrup, fudge made at the Mill Fudge Factory incorporates local New Hampshire honey and Cabot butter (instead of cream), and the maple fudges are made with maple syrup from Warner.

"It's definitely one of those foods that brings back memories for people," Munro said. "I hear that all the time. I've had people say that their grandmother or grandfather used to make fudge and they wish they had the recipe still. … We've got people that say, 'Your fudge is better than my grandmother's, but don't tell her!'"

Munro also hears about customers' attempts at fudge. It can be a daunting sweet to make at home.

"Mainly, it's the chemistry, so getting the right temperature for cooking [is essential]. In our case we pay a lot of attention to what temperature it cools to before we blend it," Munro said. "I hear people all the time saying, 'I used to make fudge, but I couldn't make it for the life of me — it came out grainy.'"

The sugar crystals contribute to the tex-

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Penuche, Belgian chocolate, eggnog and holiday mint are just a few flavors available this season at The Mill Fudge Factory. Courtesy photo.

ture, Munro said, so that's why sometimes fudge comes out grainy. Recipes that use Marshmallow Fluff or that include a lot of corn syrup help to prevent a grainy fudge.

"There are a lot of recipes out there that aren't tricky," Munro said. "I think some people are intimidated by making fudge. … It's also time-consuming."

Fudge can be made over the stovetop, but many recipes now call for a microwave to help with the cooking process.

"It's instant little bliss … and inherently a special treat," Munro said. "Fudge can transport [you] to earlier days, and it's been around for a long time as a candy. … We're trying to be a part of that."

Give it a try – Fast Fudge

This recipe was given to me by a co-worker, and frankly, the biggest reason I followed through with it was that it supposedly took only 9 minutes to make, as the recipe calls for my absolute favorite appliance: the microwave.

This fudge also requires only four ingredients, three of which are sugar, butter and peanut butter, so I figured it'd be pretty difficult to mess up. Plus, if I did manage to screw it up, I'd have done so with some relatively inexpensive ingredients. (If you haven't guessed, I'm not the most confident of chefs — my idea of cooking is making toast.)

But I have to admit, this was pretty easy, even by my standards. It did take slightly longer than 9 minutes to make, mostly because I ended up getting peanut butter everywhere. (Tip: don't think that you'll save time washing measuring cups by using the 1 cup for powdered sugar and four ¼ cups for the peanut butter. Scooping out and measuring peanut butter four times is torture.) A few other rookie mistakes: I melted the butter and peanut butter in too small a bowl, so the mixture bubbled over during the second "stir and microwave on high for two more minutes." The recipe also calls for parchment paper, which I did not have on hand, which made cutting and separating just a bit messier (and a bit more crumbly).

Overall, I was pretty impressed with the recipe. I also, as per suggestion, added some chopped-up Reese's Peanut Butter Cups (the smaller ones — they seem to have more chocolate per cup), which melded nicely in the mix. The recipe results in a good deal of fudge, and so this, in my opinion, is also an easy, tasty option for holiday gift-giving.

I brought the fudge to a get-together with some friends last weekend, who I told to be honest — our readers want to know if the recipe's any good! — but everyone thought it was delicious. I particularly enjoyed it with an icy glass of milk.

— Kelly Sennott, Hippo staff writer

Recipe originally found on comfyinthekitchen.com. Serves 8 to 10.

2 sticks of butter
1 cup creamy peanut butter
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 pound powdered sugar
Chopped mini Reese's Peanut Butter Cups (optional)

Combine butter and peanut butter in a microwavable bowl. Cover with paper towel and microwave for 2 minutes on high. Stir and microwave on high for 2 more minutes. Add vanilla and powdered sugar to peanut butter mixture and stir until firm. If desired, add Reese's Peanut Butter Cups to the top of the fudge. Spread into an 8-by-8-inch pan lined with buttered parchment paper. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours. Cut into cubes.

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The Mill Fudge Factory is located in Bristol with wholesale accounts in stores and farms around the state, like Coppal House Farm in Lee, Mack's Apples in Londonderry and Marshall's Florist in Boscawen.

Who doesn't love chocolate?

Chocolate need not be left to the professionals. Master chocolatier Rich Tango-Lowy at Dancing Lion Chocolate in Manchester said that for truffles, the challenge is in their simplicity.

"They're truffles because they look like *la truffe* — because they look like the mushroom," Tango-Lowy said. "Most people don't really understand what a truffle is, and it's very simple. A truffle is a ganache dusted in cocoa powder. And the ganache is an emulsion of cream and chocolate."

For chocolatiers like Tango-Lowy, truffles are difficult to perfect because they are so simple. But that's also what makes them a great gift to make at home, Tango-Lowy said.

"Truffles really are a perfect food for this, because as long as you use good ingredients, they're very easy," he said. "The way we do them, not so much. The way we teach people to do them, very much."

Dancing Lion Chocolate has been hosting Chocolate Truffles classes since it opened. Each two-hour class is hands-on with instruction on making truffles. An instructor explains the ingredients and introduces participants to chocolate and the differences between varieties of chocolate. Participants make coated and uncoated truffles, and at the end, there's time to sample the truffles made in the class and ask questions of the instructor. Everyone leaves with a box of truffles.

"With a couple really basic techniques, anybody can do it. It's actually easier than fudge, I think," Tango-Lowy said. "Because truffles are associated with European chocolatiering, it's considered something a little bit more elegant and a little bit more special in a lot of ways. So people are less likely to do them often. They might think that they're harder, which they don't really need to be."

Tango-Lowy recommends using blocks of chocolate instead of chocolate chips and melting the chocolate gently in the microwave. Another key trick is, when mixing the cream and the chocolate, stir in small circles at the center of the bowl until the ganache is shiny.

After letting the ganache sit, there are two techniques to making the truffles. One way is to dust the ganache in cocoa powder; the other is to enrobe the ganache in melted chocolate before coating it in ground nuts, toasted coconut or other toppings.

"The chocolate covering should be paper thin," Tango-Lowy said. "A truffle is about the ganache; it's not about the big shell on the outside. … When you bite into it, that ganache will dissolve and turn into almost a cloud-like liquid as soon as it hits your mouth."

There are different ways to flavor the ganache. Use lemon zest or alcohol, or steep the cream for a day with coffee beans, tea or citrus zest (then strain the cream before boiling).

"I think truffles are very special, because to me, you're not just making something, you're making something with your hands," Tango-Lowy said. "You put something of yourself when you make a truffle. … You're putting your soul into that piece of chocolate. For somebody to consume that or for somebody to sit and share that with somebody, it's like breaking bread. It's just such an early human ritual that gift giving — making something at home no matter how simple, then sharing it with somebody else, whether at your table or as a gift — it's as fundamental as it gets. … In the end, that's what the holidays are all about."



You don't need to be a chocolatier to make holiday truffles at home. Ashley McCarty photo.



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Give it a try – Chocolate Truffles

The recipe itself is very easy. It's pretty much just melt, cool, shape and it's done. The messiest part was shaping the chocolate, because the cold chocolate melts instantaneously when it hits your warm hands so shaping it into a ball becomes kind of gross very quickly. I used a ziplock bag full of the shredded coconut and one filled with oreo cookie crumbles. I dropped the chocolates in one at a time and shook the bag so that coating the truffles was easy (and for clean-up, I could just toss the bag).

Luckily, my mother had unsalted butter and heavy cream left over from Thanksgiving baking, so I didn't have to buy those ingredients. The chocolate I used was Ghirardelli 60-percent dark chocolate (cost $2.50). The most expensive was the coating. I bought Oreos (cost $3.00), and only used three cookies (which covered half of my truffles) and some shredded coconut (99 cents). All in all, they tasted more expensive than what they actually cost (so that was a plus).

I made them for my family, and my grandmother raved about them. I believe she used the word "decadent." My mom said they tasted like expensive fancy chocolates, and they looked really pretty on the serving tray. Personally, I thought they were very rich, but I guess that depends on what chocolate you use. I might use a milk chocolate base next time. I liked that they were customizable, and you can pretty much use anything as a topping and I'd imagine any kind of chip for a base.

I put them on a cake dish for more of a presentation. It might be difficult to give as gifts, as they are supposed to remain chilled to keep the shape and not melt. I would make these as a party dessert, but probably not package them individually for gifting. If I did, there is a suggestion in the recipe to place them in tiny paper cups, package them up in a small box and refrigerate before gifting.

— Ashley McCarty, Hippo production

Recipe from Eat Live Grow Paleo *(eatlivegrowpaleo.com)*

⅓ cup heavy cream
6 tablespoons unsalted butter
1 ¾ cups dark chocolate chips

Bring the cream to a simmer in a small saucepan. Add butter and stir until it's melted, then add chocolate chips. Stir until these are completely melted and smooth. Remove from heat and pour into a shallow bowl. Cool, cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours so that the mixture is very firm. Using a tablespoon, scoop the mixture and roll into small ball, approximately 1 inch in size. Roll each truffle in desired topping (ground nuts, coconut, cocoa or melted chocolate) and refrigerate in an airtight container for up to 2 weeks.

Getting nutty

A little like chestnuts roasting on an open fire, Candie Roux Goyette's kitchen always smells delicious. Goyette is the sister of Our Sister's Nuts, a licensed homestead business with flavored nut mixes (her younger brother thought of the clever name).

"I started with the original nut recipe," Goyette said. "I started making it for my family close to 30 years ago. It did become a Christmas tradition. At the time, they were called yummy nut crunch — the kids kind of named them."

Goyette remembers cracking nuts as a kid during the holidays.

"This just kind of takes it to another level," she said.

She bakes all the nut mixes in her home kitchen. There are eight different flavors, like a spicy mix with cayenne, a cinnamon almond, the original sweet flavor, a walnut oatmeal cookie (with cookie crumbles added to the walnuts) and cocoa cookie (with baked nuts and crumbles of cocoa cookies, rolled in milk chocolate).

Goyette experiments with flavor variations, too. She's made pumpkin spice flavored nuts, a peppermint stick nut mix and peanut butter cookie nuts, made with peanuts and drizzled with chocolate on top.

"They're baked in butter in the oven with all these wonderful things, the sugar and the spices," she said. "I've learned through an awful lot of years through baking these. … Anyone who has a favorite recipe, you can almost do it in your sleep."

The nuts are baked so that they're soft and include mixed nuts, like cashews, almonds, hazelnuts, Brazil nuts, walnuts and pecans, but customers can also order nut mixes with just one kind of nut (like a flavored mix of cashews, for example). Pecans and walnuts are great for picking up the flavors, she said.

When baking the nuts, Goyette stirs the mixture regularly to mix it well and make sure everything is evenly cooked. She recommends giving any baked nut recipe plenty of time to cool at the end of the process.

"Most people are surprised when they first taste them. I don't think they're quite sure what to expect," she said. "In our family it's very, very traditional, especially with the original sweet. My family always asks for that and they love the spicy as well."

Goyette packages the nuts in glass jars, favor boxes and bags, and glass or crystal



Candie Roux Goyette first began with a popular holiday nut recipe for her family. Courtesy photo.

Give it a try
Sugared Pecans

No, it's not a gag from the "Delicious Dish" *Saturday Night Live* skit. Instead, it's the easiest holiday treat in the world. There are plenty of variations on the spiced nut recipe, but if you're looking for a fool-proof solution for Christmas party favors or simple gifts for co-workers, it'll only take an hour of your time to whip up this simple recipe, which came from my mom.

I was surprised at how simple it was. All of the ingredients were already in my cupboard. My mom's spiced nuts were my brothers' and my favorite part of the holiday season. Where I grew up it was customary to trade tins of Christmas treats with your immediate neighbors, and the spiced pecans were my mom's signature addition to her tins of deer button cookies and ginger snaps. Once finished baking, the spiced pecans are quite versatile. Mix them in with M&Ms and serve them at a party or place them atop cupcakes for an added treat. The recipe is also easily expandable by adding walnuts and almonds. Just make sure to adjust the recipe accordingly with the volume of nuts. I personally like to package them in mason jars and tie Christmas bows around the seal of the jar for a festive gift.

— *Jon Allen, Hippo editorial design*

⅓ cup brown sugar
2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
¼ teaspoons salt
1 egg white
3 cups pecan halves

Preheat oven to 250 degrees. Mix sugar, pie spice and salt in small bowl. Beat egg white in large bowl until foamy. Add nuts; toss to coat. Add spice mixture to large bowl; toss to coat nuts evenly. Spread nuts in single layer on lightly greased baking sheet (I either use Pam spray, or lay down a layer of parchment paper). Bake one hour, stirring once. Cool slightly and break apart. Cool completely. Store in airtight container for up to two weeks.

Brittle me this

Nelson's Candies is known for its peanut brittle. That's probably because, like the other candies at Nelson's, it's all made by hand the old-fashioned way.

"It's a big Christmas item," owner Doug Nelson said in a phone interview. "I think it's just been an old-time favorite throughout the years."

Brittle is a hard candy made by combining nuts with caramelized sugar. Although there are other varieties, like almond brittle or pecan brittle, peanut brittle is by far the most popular.

"We start off with a simple syrup mix, which is sugar and corn syrup, and we use raw peanuts," Nelson said. "The candy is what cooks the peanut."

After the syrup boils, the peanut brittle at Nelson's Candies is hand pulled. The brittle is put on a water table and pulled thin with pallet knives.

Customers who come in seeking the famous brittle often remark on their attempts to make the sweet confection at home.

"We hear that all the time," Nelson said. "Most famously, they try to make it in the microwave."

Nelson isn't too sure about the microwave recipes, but that's also because the Nelson's recipe is tried and true. Nelson's Candies has been a sweet New England establishment since 1911, and even today all the candies are made with the old-fashioned copper kettle.

"They come in and say, 'Oh, it's OK,' and 'It's not like yours,'" Nelson said about the microwaved brittle attempts. "We know that we make the best peanut brittle in the world. It's a recipe we've been sticking to for over 100 years."

The Wilton store is the main store, with a summer seasonal Nelson's Candies at

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Microwave peanut brittle is fast, easy and delicious. Photo by Meghan Siegler.

Hampton Beach, and another store in Maine, run by Nelson's daughter. Nelson said that other popular treats during the holidays include Nelson's Candies' turtles (made with chocolate, caramel and pecans), old-fashioned sugar fudge, and, of course, candy canes.

"People like nuts during the holidays anyway," Nelson said. "But peanut brittle is a hard candy that goes well with the Christmas candies."

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Give it a try
Easy Microwave Peanut Brittle

This recipe took less than 20 minutes from start to finish, and the result, while not at quite the same level of deliciousness as, say, Nelson's peanut brittle, was well worth the minimal effort. It was easy enough that my 5-year-old daughter and I made it during halftime of a Patriots game, and by the middle of the third quarter, it was done setting and we were handing out samples.

I tried it first; it looked so good as I was breaking it into pieces that I couldn't help but take a taste. And then another. And another. It was the perfect ratio of peanuts to brittle, and it didn't stick to my teeth at all — I usually avoid peanut brittle because I always feel like it's going to rip my fillings out.

I really didn't think my incredibly picky daughter would like it, but she did — every time she came back to get samples for the rest of the family, she asked for "one more little piece."

My 8-year-old son gave it rave reviews and begged me to pack some in his lunch the next day. My mom said she liked that it wasn't sickeningly sweet like some peanut brittle can be. My dad will eat pretty much anything anyway, but, having watched the halftime report while I slaved over a hot microwave in the kitchen, he agreed that the final product was totally worth my time.

I've already promised my kids that we'll be making this again soon. My only complaint is that it doesn't make a lot, so I'll probably go with a double batch next time around.

— Meghan Siegler, Hippo managing editor

From allrecipes.com

cooking spray
1 cup white sugar
½ cup light corn syrup
1½ cups peanuts, or more to taste
1 tablespoon butter
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Spray baking sheet and wooden spoon with cooking spray. Mix sugar and corn syrup together in a microwaveable bowl safe for high heat. Heat sugar mixture in microwave on high for 5 minutes. Stir peanuts and butter into sugar mixture. Heat in microwave until mixture becomes a caramel color, 3 to 4 minutes. Mix baking soda and vanilla extract into syrup until smooth and foam has dissipated. Spread candy onto baking sheet using the sprayed wooden spoon. Work quickly; candy hardens fast. Let stand until cool. Break into pieces to serve.

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Holy Eucharist, **9:00 a.m.**

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THIS WEEK

EVENTS TO CHECK OUT DECEMBER 19 - 25, 2013, AND BEYOND

Friday, Dec. 20



It's big movie season, from Oscar contenders to blockbuster wannabes, and there are four movie opening in wide release today (*American Hustle*, *Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues*, *Saving Mr. Banks* and *Walking with the Dinosaurs 3D*) and another bunch on Christmas Day (*The Wolf of Wall Street*, *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*, *47 Ronin* and *Grudge Match*). Also look for smaller gems, such as *Philomena* (which Hippo's Amy Diaz recently gave an "A" and which is screening at Red River Theatres in Concord and Wilton Town Hall Theatre) and *Nebraska*, which opens today at Red River Theatres and is reviewed in this week's paper on page 76.



Thursday, Dec. 19

See Gerald Charles Dickens, great-great grandson of Charles Dickens, perform a one-man stage adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* tonight at 6 p.m. — or catch him Friday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m. — at the Crowne Plaza in Nashua (see fortingage.com for tickets to this show and to *A Child's Journey with Dickens* presented Friday, Dec. 20, at 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center in Nashua). He will also perform at the historic North Church in Portsmouth on Saturday, Dec. 21, at 3 and 7:30 p.m. (see achristmascarolportsmouthnh.com). Find more about the show and the man in last week's Hippo on page 26 (which is at e-pages.dk/thehippo/328/26).



Saturday, Dec. 21

See the Dusty Gray Band at the Red Blazer (72 Manchester St. in Concord) tonight at 8 p.m. (Get a sense of their music at dustygray.com.) Find more ideas for hitting the town with holiday guests (or to get away from holda guests) or to meet up with friends in a place where you won't have to cook for them in our Music This Week listing of live musical performances at area bars and restaurants, which starts this week on page 86.



Saturday, Dec. 21

Get your picture taken with a Clydesdale for a fun holiday souvenir. Visit the Anheuser-Busch Factory (221 Daniel Webster Highway, 595-1202, budweisertours.com) for Clydesdale Camera Day from 1 to 3 p.m. Free; bring your own camera.



Thursday, Dec. 19

You haven't missed it! There's still time to see the Palace Theatre's (80 Hanover St. in Manchester, palacetheatre.org) *A Christmas Carol*. Shows include tonight; Friday, Dec. 20; Saturday, Dec. 21, and Sunday, Dec. 22, at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 21, at 2 p.m.

Eat

Load up on holiday eats and last minute gifts at the Concord Winter Market at Cole Gardens (430 Loudon Road in Concord) Saturday, Dec. 21, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Look for Santa to stop by and live music from The Flip Side. See colegardens.com for a list of vendors.

Drink

Still searching for a gift for the wine-lover in your life? How about tickets to the annual Easter Seals Winter Wine Spectacular, which is now only a little more than a month away. The central event of New Hampshire's Wine Week, this grand tasting takes place at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester on Thursday, Jan. 30, from 6 to 9 p.m., and features thousands of wines as well as food from area restaurants. Tickets cost $65 or go VIP and get tickets that include the Bellman's Cellar Select tasting rooms of high end wines for $125 per person. See eastersealsnh.org.

Be merry

Get your happy on at the grand opening of Village Comics (196 Route 101, Bedford, 471-3931, villagecomics.net). Meet Josh Logan from *The Voice*; he'll be autographing a custom print made by a local artist, which would make a great last-minute gift for fans of the local musician who's now nationally known. Village Comics will also have all sorts of good deals to celebrate its grand opening. It's free to get in; autographed prints are $15.

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ARTS

Nutcracker with a twist

After 25 years, Northern Ballet brings new choreography



Cecile Girard and her partner, Ibrahim Perez, are professional guest dancers in Northern Ballet Theatre's rendition of *The Nutcracker*. Courtesy photo.

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

Ballet novices will have little difficulty understanding Tina Cassidy's choreographic inspiration for the Northern Ballet Theatre's 25th Anniversary production of *The Nutcracker*.

Fifteen-year-old Emma Wood, who plays the Columbine Doll, says Cassidy's choreography might even make more sense than the traditional setup. (Though it can also be argued that at points, the traditional choreography just doesn't make sense. Mice royalty? The Land of Sweets? And who is this Nutcracker dude, anyway?)

Cassidy's choreography settles the answers to at least two *Nutcracker*-related questions. In this show, audiences learn *how* the Nutcracker Prince was turned into a Nutcracker, and then, they get a better feel for why Clara falls so hard for him. (Spoiler alert: She's met him before.)

"Because people really like the classic, traditional *Nutcracker*, we tried to keep the same sort of plot. We just put some enhancements in it," Cassidy said in a phone interview. "We made it more of a coming-of-age story for Clara."

If you're not familiar with the traditional production, it goes something like this: It's Christmas Eve and a family is visited by a man named Drosselmeyer, a toymaker and magician, who brings to the party a collection of toys and, for his goddaughter Clara, a Nutcracker, which she takes an immediate liking to. After everybody's gone to bed, the clock strikes midnight and Clara returns to the parlor to check on her Nutcracker, only to find that somehow, he's grown to life-size and that he's in battle with a Mouse King. The two are surrounded by armies of mice and gingerbread men.

Clara distracts the Mouse King (by throwing her shoe at him), enabling the Nutcracker to stab him. Then, the Nutcracker transforms into a prince and leads Clara to the Land of Sweets, where she's met with performances and gifts from the people there, who are grateful for her role in saving the Nutcracker Prince.

In most productions, the Nutcracker Prince doesn't appear until after the mouse fight. But in this one, we see him before the battle, in the form of Dosselmeyer's nephew, whom he brings to the party and introduces to Clara early Christmas Eve. They dance together, but then, later that night, the nephew is bewitched into becoming the nutcracker by an evil Mouse Queen. When he's transformed back to human, he and Clara fall in love.

"The nephew turns out to be the Nutcracker Prince. This is not done in a lot of versions," Cassidy said. "I've been in countless *Nutcrackers* myself — I was a professional dancer, and I've seen so many different versions, and I thought that this would be an interesting twist, to have him appear beforehand."

It should be noted that though the choreography new, it's not *that* new.

"There were a couple of years when we tried to modernize *The Nutcracker* and set it to modern music, but there was this big outcry. People want to see *The Nutcracker* in its entirety, in the way it's supposed to be. I think part of it has to do with the music of Tchaikovsky, which is so haunting and so beautiful," Cassidy said.

Emma Wood has been dancing in the Northern Ballet Theatre's version of *The Nutcracker* for more than 10 years now, but she really likes what they've come up with for 2013. She thinks it makes more sense.

"I really like the new choreography. It's telling some of the story that was left out before. It's putting a new light to the show," Wood said.

Her mother, Kelly Wood, likes it too. But then, she's a bit biased toward Northern Ballet Theatre's rendition of *The Nutcracker*. Kelly Wood performed with the ballet theater during its first full *Nutcracker* production 25 years ago, and also in the production 26 years ago, when the company produced Act II of the show. This was before her daughter was born and back when the company was called Granite State Ballet. She performs again this year in the party scene.

Kelly Wood didn't intend on continuing with *The Nutcracker* when Emma was born, but she was "coerced" into starting up again when Emma began lessons at age 3. These days, it seems to be more difficult dissuading her from dancing in *The Nutcracker*.

"Everything about *The Nutcracker* is exciting. … It's become a tradition now. I've said in the past that I don't want to do it again, I want to have a year where I can go to my friend's Christmas party, but every year, I remember again the excitement and get drawn into doing it," Wood said.

Plus, she gets to dance with Emma, who admitted that it *is* cool not only that her mom is onstage with her, but that she understands the stress of dancing in such a big production.

The show features two guest artists, Cecile Girard, who hails from New York City and plays the Sugar Plum Fairy, and her partner, Ibrahim Perez, who plays the Cavalier and is from Lyon, France. Playing one of the youngest Claras to date is 12-year-old Emma Chew.

"This isn't just a dance recital. This is a professional show with professional costumes, professional lighting, and the quality of dance is something that has been compared to Boston. … Most of the students are pre-professional level," Kelly Wood said. "Even our youngest dancers have to go through the audition process."

See *The Nutcracker*
Where: Keefe Auditorium, 117 Elm St., Nashua
When: Saturday, Dec. 21, at 2 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 22, at 2 p.m.
Admission: $18-$22
Contact: nbtdc.com, 889-8408

24 Theater
Includes listings, shows, auditions, workshops and more.
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26 Art
Includes listings for gallery events, ongoing exhibits and classes.
To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

29 Classical
Includes symphony and orchestral performances.
To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

Theater

• ***A CHRISTMAS STORY*** directed by Brian Swasey through Dec. 22 at the Seacoast Repertory Theatre, 125 Bow St., Portsmouth, seacoastrep.org, 433-4472, $22-$42.

• ***A CHRISTMAS CAROL*** is at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester, through Dec. 22. Tickets $15 through $45. Call 668-5588, visit palacetheatre.org.

• ***A CHRISTMAS CAROL*** at The Players' Ring, 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth, on Thurs., Dec. 19, at 8 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 20, at 8 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 21, at 3 and 8 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 22, at 3 and 7 p.m.; and Mon., Dec. 23, at 7 p.m. Tickets $15. Call 436-8123, visit playersring.org.

• ***PEACOCK PLAYERS CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR*** at the Janice B. Streeter Theater, 14 Court St., Nashua, on Thurs., Dec. 19, at 7 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 20, at 7 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 21, at 2 and 7 p.m.; and Sun., Dec. 22, at 2 p.m. Tickets $10-$17, group rates available, call 886-7000, visit peacockplayers.org.

• ***A DICKENS OF A CHRISTMAS*** at Old Salt Restaurant, Lafayette Road, Hampton, on Thurs., Dec. 19, at 5:30 p.m. Call 926-0330. Limited seating. Tickets $39.99 per person. Includes gourmet three-course dinner, live music and show.

• ***STELLA AND LOU*** shows at the Merrimack Repertory Theatre, 132 Warren St., Lowell, Mass., 978-654-7550, mrt.org, Nov. 29 through Dec. 22. Tickets start at $20.

• **GERALD CHARLES DICKENS** great-great grandson of Charles Dickens performs his one-man stage adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* on Thurs., Dec. 19, at 6 p.m. (intimate night, $85 per person), and Fri., Dec. 20, at 7 p.m., at Crowne Plaza Hotel, 2 Somerset Parkway, Nashua (larger audience, $20 per person). Call 882-3371. He also performs at Portsmouth's Historic North Church in Market Square, Portsmouth, on Sat., Dec. 21, at 3 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets $25 per person, available online at achristmascarolportsmouthnh.com or by calling 866-811-4111.



NO, REALLY, SING!

The Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, hosts the Seacoast's largest "Messiah Sing" event on Friday, Dec. 20, at 7:30 p.m. It's an evening to showcase the Seacoast's "best-loved choruses, conductors, guest soloists and orchestral accompaniment," as described in the press release, but the event is a community performance — i.e., everyone can come to sing along to the Christmas portion of Handel's "Messiah."

Patrons can bring their own scores or purchase one at The Music Hall. There will be a rehearsal in the auditorium starting at 6:30 p.m. for all ticketholders.

"Nothing can compare to this transcendent community sing in our glorious historic theater which is decorated for the holidays and capped with a magnificent new crystal chandelier," Patricia Lynch, executive director of The Music Hall, said in a press release. "Patrons are also participants: every member of the audience has the opportunity to follow the signs for sopranos, altos, tenors, and bass and seat themselves." (Though, if you just want to listen, you can do that, too.) Tickets are $16.25 and can be purchased by visiting The Music Hall, by calling 436-2400 or by visiting themusichall.org.

• ***A CHRISTMAS CAROL*** at the Rochester Opera House, 31 Wakefield St., Rochester, rochesteroperahouse.com, 436-2400, themusichall.org, on Thurs., Dec. 19, at 7 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 20, at 7 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 21, at 2 and 7 p.m.; and Sun., Dec. 22, at 2 p.m. Tickets $14-$16. Modern take. Call 335-1992, visit rochesteroperahouse.com.

• ***THE NUTCRACKER*** performed by the New Hampshire School of Ballet on Fri., Dec. 20, at 7 p.m., at Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. Tickets $15. Call 668-5330, email nhsb@comcast.net.

• ***THE NUTCRACKER*** presented by Gate City Ballet at the Stockbridge Theatre, 5 Pinkerton St., Derry, on Fri., Dec. 20, at 6:30 p.m., and Sat., Dec. 21, at 1 & 4 p.m. Tickets $18 each. Call 437-5210, visit stockbridgetheatre.com.

• ***LAS POSADAS*** award-winning musical adaptation of Tomie dePaola's *The Night of Las Posadas* at Concord Community Music School, 23 Wall St., Concord, on Sun., Dec. 22, at 3 and 7 p.m. Visit alchemistsworkshop.org, call 568-5102 for ticket prices.

• ***THE NUTCRACKER*** by Northern Ballet Theatre on Sat., Dec. 21, at 2 p.m., and Sun., Dec. 22, at 2 p.m., at Keefe Auditorium, 117 Elm St., Nashua. Tickets $18-$22. Visit nbtdc.com for details.

• ***LEGENDS: THE MUSIC OF JUDY GARLAND*** part of Good Theater on Tour on Fri., Dec. 27, at 8 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 28, at 8 p.m.; and Sun., Dec. 29, at 2 p.m., at Players' Ring, 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth, 436-8123, playersring.org. Tickets $15.

• ***WEST-FEST: NEW VAUDEVILLE FESTIVAL*** at the Ponte Theatre, West End Studio Theatre, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth, on Thurs., Dec. 26, a 2 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 27, at 2 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 28, at 2 p.m.; and Sun., Dec. 29, at 2 p.m.; and Mon., Dec. 30, at 2 p.m. Tickets $15, visit pontine.org, call 436-6660.

• ***THE DEVIL'S MUSIC: THE LIFE AND BLUES OF BESSIE SMITH*** shows at the Merrimack Repertory Theatre, 132 Warren St., Lowell, Mass., 978-654-7550, mrt.org, runs Jan. 9 through Feb. 2. Tickets start at $20.

• ***TIMBER*** by Cirque Alfonse, Acadian music, juggling axes, acrobatic stunts, at Dana Center for the Humanities, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, on Sat., Jan. 25, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets $33.75. Call 641-7700, email dana@anselm.edu.

• **RHYTHM OF THE DANCE** performance by the National Dance Theatre of Ireland on Fri., Feb. 14, at 7:30 p.m., at Dana Center for the Humanities, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester. Tickets $33.75. Call 641-7700, email dana@anselm.edu.

• ***EQUALLY DIVIDED*** shows at the Merrimack Repertory Theatre, 132 Warren St., Lowell, Mass., 978-654-7550, mrt.org, Feb. 13 through March 9. Tickets start at $20.

• ***LE PETIT PRINCE*** by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry at the Seacoast Repertory Theatre, 125 Bow St., Portsmouth, Jan. 10 through Jan. 26. Tickets $24. Call 431-6644, ext. 5, or email reservations@nhtheatreproject.org.

• ***THE GREAT AMERICAN TRAILER PARK MUSICAL*** performed by the Rochester Opera House Productions at the Rochester Opera House, City Hall, 31 Wakefield St., Rochester, Jan. 16 through Feb. 2. Tickets $16-$20. Call 335-1992.

Classes for kids

• **APPRENTICE STAGE PAPA YOUTH DAY CAMP** through Seacoast Repertory Theatre, 125 Bow St., Portsmouth, for Summer 2013. Email Grady@seacoastrep.org or Miles@seacoastrep.org.

• **THE DRAMA HOUSE** A theatrical workshop for ages 13-17. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-9 p.m. at Springfield College, 500 Commercial St., Manchester, 703-9091, latinosonthemovene.com.

• **KIDS' THEATER CLASSES** offered by the Boys & Girls Club of Souhegan Valley, Riverbend School of Theater Arts, 56 Mont Vernon St., Milford, 465-3456. Register at svbgc.org.

• **LEDDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS** (38 Ladd's Lane, Epping, 679-2781, leddycenter.org) offers classes and summer camps for children starting at age 4. Classes include musical theater (for kids through 15) and classes for homeschoolers.

• **RODGERS MEMORIAL LIBRARY THEATER CLUB FOR KIDS** at the library, 194 Derry Road, Hudson, meets Wednesdays from 6 to 8 p.m., for kids ages 8 to 12. Register at rmlnh.org/events.

• **THEATRE UNMASKED** will hold Acting Unmasked, a series of acting classes for kids and teens, Wednesdays and Saturdays at The Mill Space, 1 Washington St., Dover, 207-358-9887, theatreunmasked.com/acting-classes.php.

• **WINDHAM ACTORS GUILD** is a nonprofit theater

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ART

CURTAIN CALL

Notes from the theater scene



Ryuosuke Yamazumi, a master juggler who performs at Portsmouth's West-Fest. Courtesy photo.

• **For vaudeville after Christmas:** Yes, there is something fun to do the day after Christmas. For the sixth year in a row, Pontine Theatre presents its annual West-Fest at its West End Studio Theatre, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth, Dec. 26 through Dec. 30 at 2 p.m. each day. The festival, according to a press release, is modeled on the Phyzgig Festival, which was founded in Portland, Maine, in 1997, and is a family-oriented event with performances featuring "magic, mirth and mayhem." Performers include BJ Hickman, a "master magician," who performs Thursday and Friday; John and Rebecca Higby, i.e., "The YoYo People," who perform Saturday and Sunday; Roderick Russell, who performs magic, reads minds and swallows swords, and who performs on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday; juggler Ryuosuke Yamazumi, who performs Monday; and Justin Lander and Rose Friedman, who are the founders of Vermont's Modern Times Theatre and use puppetry and music in their act. (They perform on Sunday.) Tickets are $15 and may be purchased online at pontine.org or at the door a half hour before each show. Email info@pontine.org or call 436-6660.

• **Want to fiddle?** The New Hampshire Fiddle Ensemble invites all acoustic musicians to come and develop their fiddling (or acoustic) skills at what will be weekly rehearsals across the state. The ensemble, which is now in its fifth year, is comprised of people of all ages and abilities who play a variety of acoustic instruments. The group's aim is to provide a place for them to learn and develop the basics of performing and musicianship. There will be local practices, according to the press release, in Tilton (Tilton Senior Center, 11 Grange Road, Tilton, 527-8291) on Fridays; Exeter (Rec. Dept., 32 Court St.) on Thursdays; Sandwich (Benz Center, 18 Heard Road, Center Sandwich) on Wednesdays and Saturdays; in Conway (Mountain Top Music, 111 Main St., Conway) on Mondays; and Somersworth (TBD) on Wednesdays. The sessions begin during the first week of January, last through March and end with performances in April. The registration fee is $195 for adults, $125 for kids. Visit nhfiddleensemble.com for complete rehearsal and registration information. (Beginners are welcome, but at least some acoustic musical experience is required.)

• **Introducing Open Stage Events:** The presentation at Portsmouth's First Church featuring Charles Dickens' great-great-grandson Gerald Dickens this weekend (Saturday, Dec. 21, at 3 and 7:30 p.m., $25, achristmascarolinportsmouthnh.com, specifically) is the first official event for Open Stage Events, a company that Portsmouth resident Don Tirabassi started this year. The aim of Open Stage Events is to bring "shows of unusual interest" to the Seacoast area. "There's no void of theater on the Seacoast," Tirabassi said in a phone interview. "But my taste tends to run to the things that might not easily fit into other people's programming. I'm hoping to use nontraditional spaces from time to time. … I'm very excited about the possibility of having events of this type as part of the church's ongoing relationship with the community." — *Kelly Sennott*

group open to all ages. See windhamactorsguild.com or contact Producer Christopher Cohen at 560-0428 or ccohen@suffolk.edu.

Art

Art events

• **PECHAKUCHA NIGHT NO. 17** "Home for the Holidays" at Portsmouth Gas Light Company, 64 Market St., Portsmouth, 430-8582, on Sun., Dec. 29, at 7 p.m. Presenters will share favorite holiday stories. Interested presenters contact Celeste Ladd, cladd@3Sarts.org. Visit 3arts.org, facebook.com/3Sartspace.

• **BECK'S ARTS EXPRESS** hosts an Open House event on Fri., Jan. 10, 5:30-7 p.m., at 491 Amherst St., Nashua. Snacks crafts, discount for class registration. Call 566-1393, visit artsexpressnh.com/class.html.

• **ART 'ROUND TOWN** is held the first Friday of the month (year round) 5-8 p.m. in downtown Portsmouth. Visit artroundtown.org. Includes more than 50 resident artists and guest artists, musicians, businesses, food vendors.

• **FIRST THURSDAYS** The Currier Museum of Art is open late, 5:30-7:30 p.m., first Thursday of each month with special programs including live music, lectures and film, at 150 Ash St.,



LAST CHANCE

The Palace Theatre's (80 Hanover St., Manchester) rendition of *A Christmas Carol* opened to record crowds, according to a press release, but this weekend is your last chance to see George Piehl playing the role he's most known for around here. (Scrooge. He's a regular in our Hippo readers' "Best of" awards.) This year's show was directed by Andrea McCormick, as Palace Theatre Artistic Director Carl Rajotte took a separate cast of *A Christmas Carol* on a national tour. This weekend's showtimes are Thursday, Dec. 19, at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 20, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 21, at 2 and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 22, at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets range in price, $15 to $45. Visit palacetheatre.org, call 668-5588. Photo courtesy of Dachowski Photography.

Manchester, 669-6144, ext. 108, currier.org.

• **THE ANDRES INSTITUTE OF ART** in Brookline offers guided walking and audio tours of its sculpture park and studio. Call 673-8441, or visit andresinstitute.org.

• **GOOD NEIGHBOR SERIES** Sharon Arts Center is hosting a series of cultural programs at its Exhibition Gallery, 30 Grove St., Peterborough, 924-7676, sharonarts.org. The series will feature presentations by professional artists on the first and third Saturdays of the month, 7-9:30 p.m.

• **PICKER ART GALLERY** will host an open studio/meet the artists day on the first Saturday of the month, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Picker Building, 99 Factory St. Extension, Nashua, 305-6256.

• **THE PISCATAQUA DECORATIVE ARTS SOCIETY** presents its 10th season of lectures and events. Visit pdasociety.org.

• **ZIMMERMAN HOUSE** open for public tours, leaving from the Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St., Manchester, 669-6144, currier.org). Offered twice daily. Reservations required. Cost is $8-$20, includes same-day museum admission.

Exhibit openings

• **"MONOTYPE EXHIBIT: SINGULAR EXPRESSION"** on view now through Jan., monotypes by Annick Bouvron-Gromek, Bill Childs, Barbara Cowan, Pam Lawson and Doris Rice at Seacoast Artists Association Gallery, 225 Water St., Exeter, seacoastartist.org. Closing reception on Sat., Jan. 25, 2-4 p.m. Refreshments.

• **"ART AND BLOOM"** presented by McGowan Fine Art, 10 Hills Ave., Concord, Jan. 23 through Jan. 25. Reception on Thurs., Jan. 23, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Presented by Concord Garden Club, featuring floral arrangements inspired by artwork.

In the galleries

• **"HOME, SCHOOL, AND STUDIO: WOMEN ARTISTS AND NEW HAMPSHIRE"** at the New Hampshire Historical Society Museum, 6 Eagle Square, Concord, through Dec. 31. Admission $5.50 for adults, $3 for children. Visit nhhistory.org or call 228-6688.

• **"GOOD THINGS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES"** affordable art sized 10x10 and smaller at Wild Salamander Creative Art Center's Whitty Gallery, 30 Ash St., Hollis, 465-WILD, on view through Dec. 23. Visit wildsalamander.com.

• **"GOT ART TALENT"** exhibit on view at the Mill Brook Gallery & Sculpture Garden, 236 Hopkinton Road, Concord, themillbrookgallery.com, 226-2046, through Dec. 24.

• **"THE CREATIVE MIND APPLIED"** commercial art exhibit at the Gallery at 100 Market St., Portsmouth, Oct. 25 through Jan. 3. Show features two separate "blueprints" that illustrate multi stages of a project.

• **"VISIONS OF EUROPE"** is an exhibition of works inspired through European study, traveling and living, on view at One New Hampshire Ave., Pease Tradeport, Portsmouth, on view now through Dec. 20.

• **"TOMIE DEPAOLA: THEN AND NOW"** exhibit at Colby-Sawyer College in the Sawyer Fine and Performing Arts Center (541 Main St., New London, colby-sawyer.edu) Nov. 7 through Dec. 20. Exhibit coincides with dePaola's 80th birthday and highlights his career 1975 to present with fine art and book illustrations. Call 526-3000.

• **BOB LARSEN** shows "Still on the Way" at McGowan Fine Art, 10 Hills Ave., Concord, 225-2515, Nov. 19 through Dec. 20.

• **EXETER HOLIDAY ART SHOW** at Old Town Hall (One Front St., Exeter) on view Dec. 5 through Dec. 22. Featuring art by Exeter Arts Committee. Visit exeterarts.org.

• **"GOOD THINGS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES"** on view at the Whitty Gallery, 30 Ash St., Hollis, wildsalamander.com, 465-WILD, Nov. 15 through Dec. 23. Display of affordable art 10x10 and under.

• **ARTFUL GIVING FOR THE HOLIDAYS** at Mill Brook Gallery & Sculpture Garden, 236 Hopkinton Road, Concord, themillbrookgallery.com, 226-2046, through Dec. 24. Paintings, sculpture, jewelry, mobiles, pottery by regional and national artists.

• **"BIG GIFTS IN SMALL PACKAGES"** on view at the Seacoast Artist Association Gallery (225 Water St., Exeter) on view through Dec. 27. Email gallery@seacoastartist.org, call 778-8856, visit seacoastartist.org.

• **RANDY KNOWLES** art on display at East Colony Fine Art, 55 S. Commercial St., Manchester, 621-7400, through Dec. 28.

• **"COMING OF AGE: NEW ENGLAND ARTISTS UNDER 30"** on view at the New Hampshire Institute of Art/Sharon Arts Center Exhibition Gallery at 30 Grove St., Peterborough, Nov. 1 through Dec. 28. Visit sharonarts.org, call 914-7676.

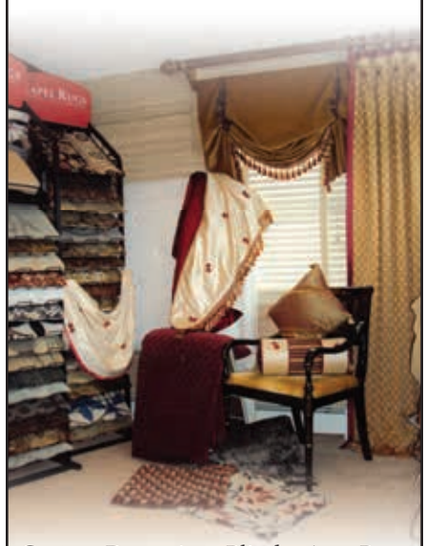
• **"WINTER LIGHTS: GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS"** exhibit at The Loading Dock Gallery, 122 W. Ave., Lowell, 978-656-1687, Nov. 29 through Dec. 29. Visit theloadingdockgallery.com.

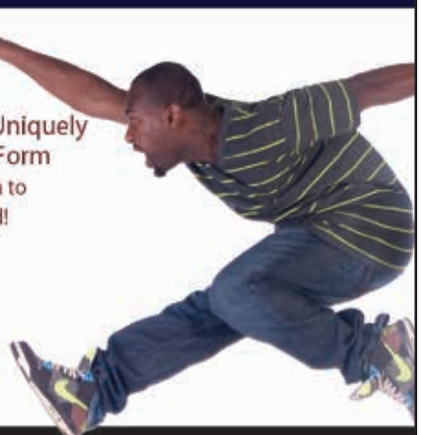
• **"IMAGINE"** works by Elaine Farmer and Michael James Toomy on view at Coffeeberries, 4 Orchard View, Londonderry, Nov. 2 through Dec. 31.

• **HOLIDAY SMALL WORKS SHOW** at Lucy's Art Emporium, LLC, 303 Central Ave.,

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Textile connections

Manchester new Americans appreciate "Africa Interweave: Textile Diasporas"

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

When a handful of women immigrants, refugees and new Americans walked into the Currier's African textile exhibition last month, their faces lit up.

The women were from Sewing Confidence, a program through Rubia, Inc. that began in 2009 to foster integration of resettled refugee women in Manchester through instruction in sewing, applied English, product design and management training. The group meets twice weekly to sew and socialize. For some of these women, this was their first visit to the Currier, period.

Thandi Tshabangu-Soko, for instance, lived in Manchester for 10 years before stepping inside the museum.

"I'd drive by and say, 'That's a place where mzungo [white people] go," Tshabangu-Soko said in a press release.

But "Africa Interweave: Textile Diasporas" lured a number of them in, particularly the nonprofit's African members. For the women and for Tshabangu-Soko, in particular, it helped instill a sense of belonging within the city. The exhibition explores the history, trade routes, cultures and customs of Africa through its high-fashion, costume and traditional textiles.

"I knew about the Currier, but I didn't know what it was doing. I didn't think it had anything to do with me. I could always see lots of cars in the parking lot there every time I drove by Beech Street, but I never knew what was going on," said Tshabangu-Soko, who's also the new director of Sewing Confidence.

"The exhibition is embracing the diverse cultures here. We had this very warm feeling when we walked in," Tshabangu-Soko said.

Tshabangu-Soko came to the United States from Zimbabwe 10 years ago first to study public health, and then to study community development. She recognized some of the pieces on view from those she'd seen at home, but many more were unfamiliar.

"The textiles were very beautiful. I saw a number that I'd never seen before," she said.

She was particularly enthralled with the textiles from West Africa, and the history behind those pieces.

The exhibition also provides an opportunity for her to share her culture with her friends and family from the States; she told them about the Currier's most recent show and was delighted when many of them took the drive to see it. Some of them traveled from as far away as Long Island.

The women, said Catherine Reilly, executive director of Sewing Confidence's parent company, Rubia Inc., spent a lot of time studying each piece, particularly the kente and mud cloths, in which they liked searching for symbols. She ventured into "African Interweave" with these women, and she could see from their expressions, from their reactions, that it meant a lot to them to see their culture valued here.

"Because in spite of everything, racism still exists everywhere," Reilly said. She cited the racist graffiti splattered on refugee homes in Concord two years ago as an example.

But in a sense, that was an intention of showing "Africa Interweave" in the first place.

"Manchester has long been a resettlement site for refugees, offering a home for those without a home," Currier Director of PR and Marketing Steve Konick wrote in an email. "The Africa Interweave show has provided us with an opportunity to reach out to African immigrants living in Manchester, reminding them of their incredibly beautiful culture and allowing everyone to appreciate it."

The fact that the exhibition shows in Manchester, is also significant.

"Manchester has this very important connection to textile. It was built on the textile industry, and I think people from New Hampshire have a special place for them," Reilly said. "Beauty is universal. You don't need language to see it, which, hands-down, is one of the biggest challenges for these new Americans. This is a way to communicate with Manchester without words."



"Nigerian Indigo Resist Dyed Cloth" (adire Alabere), c. 1980, by Nike Davies of Okundaye. On view at the Currier Museum of Art's "Africa Interweave: Textile Diasporas" exhibition, which is on view through Jan. 12. Randy Batista Photography.

About Sewing Confidence

To learn more about Sewing Confidence, visit sewingconfidence.org. You can purchase items made by the women of Sewing Confidence at the **Currier Museum of Art** gift shop (150 Ash St., Manchester, currier.org), where the group's products will be on sale. You can also buy their products at **Bona Fide Green Goods,** 35 S. Main St., Concord, at **Milltown Market,** 1053 Elm St., Manchester, and at a number of local events.

Dover, lucycartemporium.com, Nov. 19 through Dec. 30.

• **PHOTOGRAPHERS FORUM CAMERA CLUB** exhibit at the community room at the Rodgers Memorial Libray, 194 Derry Road, Hudson, through December.

• **JIN RWEI** art on display at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, during December. Call 589-4610, email carol.eyman@nashua.library.org.

• **KATE LEMAY** presents "The Free-Time Project" at The Studio, 50 Canal St., Laconia, on view through December. Call 455-8008.

• **STUDIO 550 CUP SHOW & SALE** on view at Studio 550, 550 Elm St., Manchester, 232-5597, on view Nov. 9 through Jan. 8. Visit 550arts.com, email info@550arts.com.

• **WOMEN'S CAUCUS FOR ART 6X6 PANEL SHOW** on view Nov. 9 through Jan. 8 at Studio 550, 550 Elm St., Manchester, 232-5597, info@550arts.com, 550arts.com.

• **"FALL INTO WINTER '13"** at The Gallery at 100 Market St., Portsmouth, Oct. 25 through Jan. 18. First and second floors.

• **BRUCE MCCOLL AND MATT BROWN** exhibit at Labelle Winery, Amherst, through Jan. 2014. Call 672-9898, email michelle@labellewinerynh.com.

• **MARTHA BOSCO** shows "A Little Bit of Everything" at the Amherst Town Library, 14 Main St., Amherst, through mid-January. Email marthabosco2@gmail.com.

• **BRUSH ART GALLERY'S ANNUAL MEMBERS' SHOW** with the New England Sculptors Association through Jan. 11 at The Brush Gallery, 256 Market St., Lowell, 978-459-7819.

• **AFRICA INTERWEAVE: TEXTILE DIASPORAS** on view at the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester, through Jan. 12.

• **NICK McCARTHY-DONOVAN** shows "Big Wild Cats of Africa; Lions, Leopards and Cheetahs" and "Wolves, Call of the Wild" at Mogi'z Hair Salon & Art Gallery, 383 Dunstable Road, Nashua, Nov. 7 through Jan.

• **MARY SWANSON** artwork on display at the Hollis Social Library, 2 Monument Square, Hollis, through Jan. 6. Landscapes, florals, portraits, houses, abstracts.

• **"SMALL, MEDIUM, LARGE"** art show with every size, every price, every style, at Art 3 Gallery, 44 W. Brook St., Manchester, on view Dec. 2 through Jan. 31.

• **"LIGHT AND SHADOW"** exhibit at the Children's Museum of New Hampshire, 6 Washington St., Dover, 742-2002, childrens-museum.org, Dec. 7 through March 1. Photography, weaving, drawing, painting, 3D installments. Free admission for gallery only.

• **NH FURNITURE MASTERS WINTER SHOW** on view at the NHFMA gallery, 49 S. Main St., Concord, now through March 10. Visit furnituremasters.org.

Open call

• **CALL FOR ART** to participate in open-themed show, all art, for Gallery at 100 Market St., Portsmouth. Deadline Dec. 30. Pick-up April 12, 2014. Two cash awards. Email maskmakernh@aol.com.

• **CALLING NEW ARTISTS** to exhibit at Spoon Revolution Vegan Bistro, 55 S. Main St., Concord, 738-4327, spoonrev.com, spoonrevnh@gmail.com. Contact for details.

• **CALLING NEW ARTISTS** to exhibit at the Trumpet Gallery, 8 Grove St., Peterborough, 924-9862, monaadisabrooks@gmail.com, trumpetgallery.com.

• **CALL FOR ARTISTS** entries for "Perfect Pitch: Art Inspired by Music" at Studio 550, 550 Elm St., Manchester, 232-5597, info@550arts.com, open to all art forms that draw their inspiration from music, rhythm or dance, 2D, 3D or mixed media. Deadline Feb. 1.

• **CALL FOR ARTISTS** entries for "SHIFT: Art Inspired by the Bicycle" open to all art forms, 2-D, 3-D, functional or mixed media. Graphic design/poster art encouraged to apply. Deadline April 1.

• **ARTIST STUDIO SPACES** are available at 3S Artspace's downtown Portsmouth location, 319 Vaughan St. Studio prices range from $90 to $350. If interested, visit 3sarts.org to apply.

Classes/workshops/demonstrations

• **ARTBAR** monthly casual painting sessions based on a theme on the second Saturday of the month, 7-9 p.m. at Sharon Arts Center, Depot Square, and 30 Grove St., Peterborough, 924-2787, sharonarts.org/artbar-night-premieres.html. Limited to 12 participants; pre-registration required. Cost is $25.

• **ARTISTS' SALON** with Mona Adisa Brooks at the Trumpet Gallery, 26 Gen. Miller Highway, Temple, 731-4016, every Monday at 7 p.m. Free, registration required. Call or email monaadisabrooks@gmail.com.

• **CAROL WHALEN ART STUDIO** offers youth and adult classes in drawing, painting and mixed media at Hampton Falls Common, 97 Lafayette Road,



LAST CHANCE!

The New Hampshire Historical Society's exhibition "Home, School and Studio: Women Artists and New Hampshire," has just a few more days of display at the museum, 6 Eagle Square, Concord. The exhibition features more than a century's worth of paintings, drawings, prints and sculpture created by New Hampshire women, from the early 1800's through the mid-1900's. The exhibit is on view through Dec. 31. There's a $5.50 admission for adults, $3 for children. Visit nhhistory.org, call 228-6688. Pictured, "After the Rain" by Adelaide C. Palmer.

Hampton Falls, 601-6900, carolwhalenartstudio.com.

• **CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS** at Sharon Arts Center, 457 Route 123, Sharon, 924-7256, sharonarts.org.

• **CLASSES** for adults, teens and children at White Birch Fine Art (106 Chase Road, Londonderry, 801-0703, whitebirchfineart.com).

• **CITY ARTS NASHUA** cityartsnashua.org, a central place to buy tickets to the Nashua Symphony and Chamber Orchestra concerts, coffeehouse performances, theater productions, art fundraising events and more. Includes info on non-ticketed events including gallery openings, art exhibits, classes, films, poetry readings and lectures, 589-3070.

• **COLOR AND CABERNET** one-night art classes at Kimball Jenkins (266 N. Main St., Concord). Create masterpieces to take home; bring snack and drinks. Classes limited to 10 people. Tuition $40 per session, call 225-3932 or visit kimballjenkins.com.

• **CURRIER ART CENTER CLASSES** include Creative Painting for Young Artists, Collage for Kids, Still Life Painting in Oil and more. Call 669-6144, visit currier.org.

• **DROP-IN CLAY ORNAMENT WORKSHOP** every Saturday 6-8 p.m. in November and December at Studio 550, 550 Elm St., Manchester, 232-5597, 550arts.com, $10. All ages, beginners welcome.

• **FAMILY CLAY WORKSHOPS** at Studio 550, 550 Elm St., Manchester, 232-5597, every Saturday 1:30-2:30 p.m., open to all ages. December project Snowman boxes.

• **GOFFSTOWN AREA ARTISTS BREAKFAST** Mondays, 8:30 a.m., at Sawyer's Main Street Breakfast, 13 Main St., Goffstown, info@goffstownmainstreet.org.

• **HONE YOUR ARTISTIC SKILLS** with Mona Adisa Brooks at the Trumpet Gallery, 26 Gen. Miller Highway, Temple, 731-4016, on Tuesdays 7-8 p.m. Cost is $25. Registration required. Call or email monaadisabrooks@gmail.com.

• **IKEBANA** Learn the art of Ikebana (Japanese flower arrangement) at Ikebana Flower, 95 W. Pearl St., Nashua, 595-8877. Two-hour classes are held weekly Wed., Thurs. and Fri.

• **INTRO DRAWING: LEARNING TO SEE** at Studio 550 Arts Center (550 Elm St., Manchester) Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m. Representational drawing class to teach students to see in a way that will enhance their drawing. The 10-week class costs $195. Call 232-5597, email info@550arts.com or visit 550arts.com.

• **KAST HILL STUDIO** holds ongoing workshops and events, 195 Kast Hill Road, Hopkinton.

• **MONTHLY MEETINGS** Visual and performing artists are invited to attend the Hollis Arts Society monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m., Lawrence Barn, 29 Depot Road, Hollis, 882-1503.

• **MUSE PAINTBAR** 42 Hanover St., Manchester, 421-6500, musepaintbar.com. Two- to three-hour painting lesson. Admission about $35 per session per person. Munchies and beverages sold separately.

• **OIL PAINTING CLASS** Tuesdays, 6:30-9:30 p.m., $140 for 8 weeks, at East Colony Fine Art, 55 S. Commercial St., Manchester, 669-6994, eastcolony.com.

• **OPEN STUDIO NIGHTS** third Thursdays, 6-9 p.m. at Verdigris Artisans, 88 N. Main St., Suite 205, Concord, verdigrisartisans.com.

• **PAINT PARTY** paintpartynh.com, 912-5441, sfbartist@gmail.com, 43 Range Road, Suite 204, Windham. Ongoing programs most Friday and Saturday nights. Sessions start at $35.

• **PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS** with Dan Splaine at Test of Time Photography studio in the Picker Building, 99 Factory St. Extension, Nashua, 579-0777, testoftimephoto.com.

• **PLEIN AIR WORKSHOPS** by Elaine Farmer at White Birch Fine Art, 106 Chase Road, Londonderry, 801-0703, whitebirchfineart.com. Classes: $75 each.

• **POTTERY DATE NIGHT** at Studio 550, 550arts.com, 550 Elm St., Manchester, 232-5597, every Friday, 6-7:30 p.m. or 7:30-9 p.m., $60 per couple. Bring snacks if desired.

• **PORCELAIN DOLLMAKING** Wednesday morning and evening classes at Mystical Merriment Doll Studio, 228 Piscataqua Road, Durham, 740-4567, mysticalmerriment@yahoo.com.

• **SATURDAY SERIES** at Kimball-Jenkins Estate, 266 N. Main St., Concord, 225-3932, kimballjenkins.com.

• **SMALL GROUP AFTER-SCHOOL CLASSES** will be held on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 4 and 5:15 p.m. and Saturdays at 9:45 and 11 a.m. at Becks Arts Express Studio, 5 Pine St. Extension, Nashua, 889-1670, admin@artsexpressnh.com.

• **STUDIO 550** art center and gallery, 550 Elm St., Manchester, 232-5597, info@550arts.com, 550arts.com. Pottery, clay hand building, stained glass and clay classes for kids and adults.

• **STAINED GLASS CLASS** for beginners any 5 consecutive Saturdays, year-round, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at Nashua League of Craftsmen (98 Main St., Nashua, 595-8233). Cost is $250, which includes tools. Cost of glass not included.

• **WILD SALAMANDER** (30 Ash St., Hollis) offers classes in painting, photography, jewelry, pen and ink, digital arts, kids art and music classes. Visit wildsalamander.com or call 465-WILD.

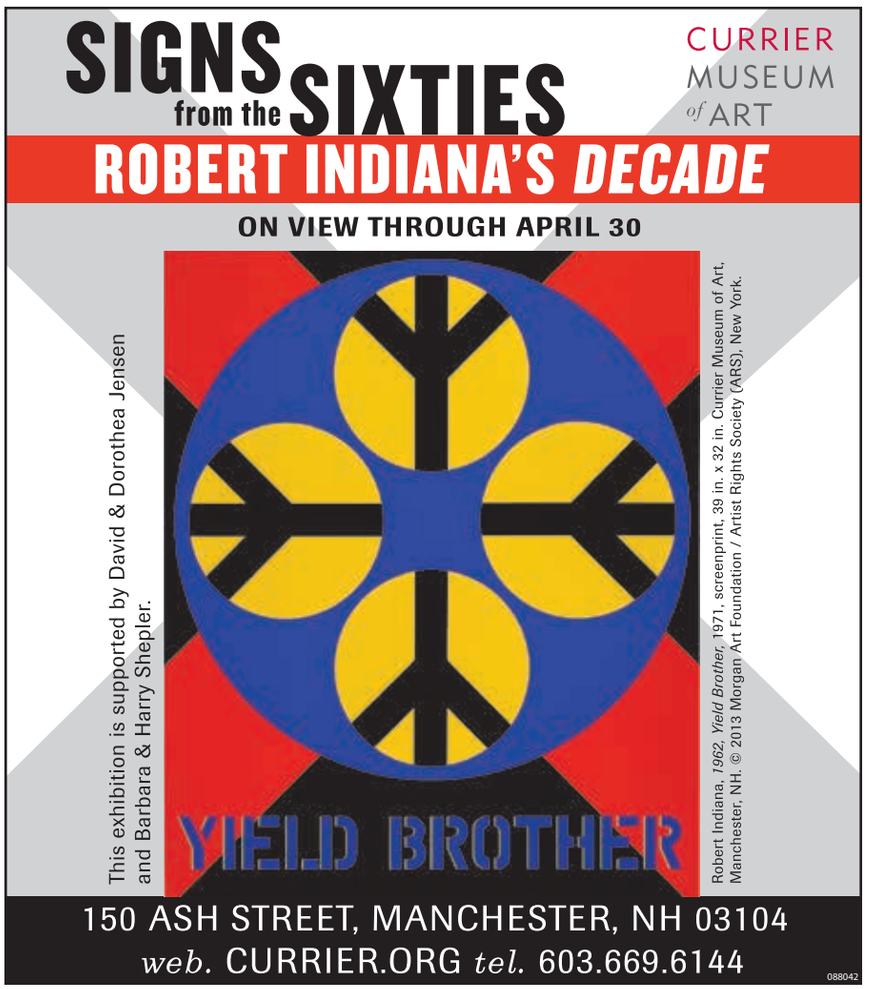
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• **DISCOVER THURSDAYS** at Discover Portsmouth Center, 10 Middle St., Portsmouth, 436-8433, portsmouthhistory.org, featuring Piscataqua River Brass on Thurs., Dec. 19, at 7 p.m.; and The Aeterna Trio on Thurs., Dec. 26, at 3 p.m. Tickets $12.

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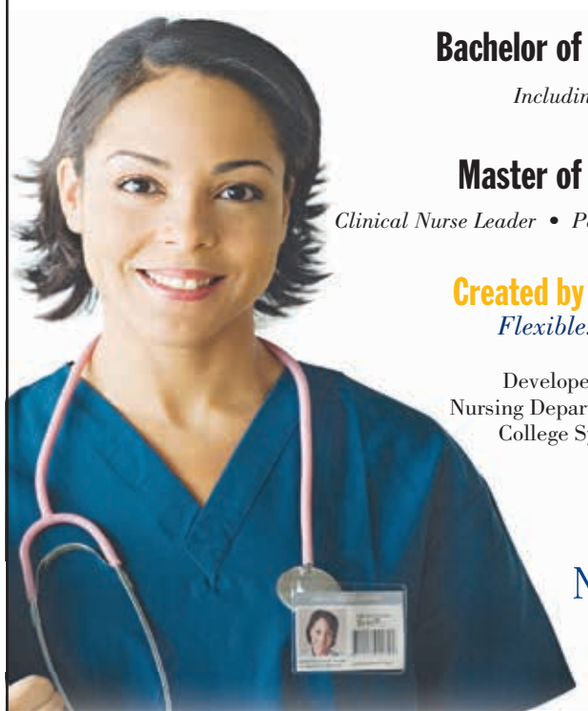
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ART

LOCAL — COLOR —

NH art world news



"Early Morning," a monotype by artist Pam Lawson, on display at the Seacoast Artist Association Gallery in Exeter.

• **O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree:** Students from Mascoma Valley Regional High School in Canaan created ornaments for the New Hampshire Christmas Tree, part of the "Pathway of Peace" National Christmas Tree display in Washington, D.C., which is on view through December. They worked with artist and educator Christopher Morse on the project in September and October. The display contains 56 trees — one for each state, U.S. territory and the District of Columbia — which surround the National Christmas Tree at the National Mall between the White House and the Washington Monument. The New Hampshire ornaments were made with a variety of media, including ceramics, metal, wood, fiber, natural materials, digital imagery and acrylic paintings, according to the press release, and depict beaver dams, log cabins, historical buildings, outdoor activities, wildlife, etc.

• **A convergence of stories and art:** The Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester, hosts a Storytime in the Gallery on Monday, Dec. 23, at 11:30 a.m. Children (recommended ages 3 to 5, but all welcome) will hear *Making a Friend* by Alison McGee. The program is offered in partnership with the Manchester City Library and is free with museum admission. (Admission for children 12 and younger is free.)

• **Isn't it better to be "Home For the Holidays?"** Sometimes. But for those times you wish you skipped out, take it out at PechaKucha Night Portsmouth No. 17: Home For the Holidays. Event organizers "dare" you to share favorite holiday stories — the good, the bad and the ugly — at the Portsmouth Gas Light Co., 64 Market St., Portsmouth, on Sunday, Dec. 29, from 7 to 9 p.m. in six minutes and 40 seconds, "hot on the heels" of the holiday season. If you've never attended a PechaKucha event, it's a series of presentations by local artists (or storytellers) who show 20 slides for 20 seconds each. Admission is free. Email Celeste Ladd at cladd@3Sarts.org if you're interested in presenting.

• **"Monotype: Singular Expression":** Work by five artists (Annick Bouvron-Gromek, Bill Childs, Barbara Cowan, Pam Lawson and Doris Rice) hangs in the Seacoast Artist Association Gallery, 225 Water St., Exeter, now through Jan. 25. The show is called "Monotype: Singular Expression," and the art on view is such, neither print nor painting, but a combination of both, as described in the press release. Gallery hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Call 778-8856, visit seacoastartist.org. There's a closing reception on Saturday, Jan. 25, from 2 to 4 p.m.

— *Kelly Sennott*

NY ORCHESTRA FAMILY HOLIDAY POPS concert on Thurs., Dec. 19, at 7:30 p.m., at The Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth. Featuring the Sandpipers Children's Chorus and York High School Chamber Singers. Tickets $24 per person. Call 436-2400, visit portsmouthsymphony.org.

• **A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS AND CAROLING** event featuring Sebastion Lockwood and Nanette Perrotte at the Mariposa Museum, 26 Main St., Peterborough, 924-4555, pr@mariposamuseum.org, mariposamuseum.org, on Thurs., Dec. 19, at 7 p.m. Storytelling, caroling, wassail and holiday treats. Admission $7, free for children.

• **SYMPHONY NH GLENN MILLER CHRISTMAS** on Fri., Dec. 20, at 7:30 p.m., at the Radisson, 11 Tara Blvd., Nashua. Tickets $50 per person. Featuring New England Swing, vocalist Amy Chicavich and music of Glenn Miller. Visit symphonynh.org, call 595-9156.

• **CREOLE CHRISTMAS WITH PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND** on Sat., Dec. 21, at 8 p.m., at The Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400. Holiday classics with New Orleans twist. Tickets $34.25-$40.25.

• **DICKEN'S CHRISTMAS** caroling performance at All Saints Church, 124 Hall St., Concord, on Sat., Dec. 21, at 6 p.m. Free event. Visit allsaintsnh.com, call 545-9079.

• **MESSIAH SING!** at The Music Hall (28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, the musichall.org) on Fri., Dec. 20, at 7:30 p.m. ($16.25). Community singing event.

• **CHRIS KLAXTON** performs on Sat., Dec. 21, at 9 p.m., at the Barley Pub, 83 Washington St., Dover (free admission); on Sun., Dec. 22, at The Press Room, 77 Daniels St., Portsmouth ($10 or $5 with student ID); and Thurs., Dec. 26, at 9 p.m., at Fury's Publick House, 1 Washington St., Dover (free admission).

• **MERRIMACK HOLIDAY POPS** concert at Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord, on Sun., Dec. 22, at 4 p.m. Currently sold out, standby tickets available at 225-1111.

• **ÆTERNA TRIO** perform "Peace on Earth" on Sun., Dec. 22, at 3 p.m., at Discover Portsmouth Center, 10 Middle St., Portsmouth. Call 436-8433, visit portsmouthhistory.org.

• **PEACE ON EARTH** mid-day holiday concert featuring Andy Hapel trio AETERNA on Sun., Dec. 22, at 3 p.m., at Discover Portsmouth Center, 10 Middle St., Portsmouth, 436-8433. Tickets $10 for members, $12 for nonmembers.

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From yoga to pilates, cooking to languages to activities for the kids, Hippo's weekly listing offers a rundown of all area events and classes. Get your program listed by sending information to listings@hippopress.com at least three weeks before the

INSIDE/OUTSIDE

Flipping out

Monster trucks tear through Manchester

By Kaitlin Joseph
kjoseph@hippopress.com

Flips, tricks and crushing cars — this is some of what you'll see at the Verizon Wireless Arena if you have tickets to the Monster Jam in January.

"Monster Jam is the most exciting form of family motorsports entertainment on the planet," said Amanda Regan, public relations spokesperson at Feld Motor Sports.

At a Monster Jam show, there are two different competitions for the truck drivers: side-by-side racing and free-style.

The first truck to cross the finish line with the fewest penalties wins the side-by-side race. Trucks will have different obstacles to jump over, including other trucks, cars, boats, buses, caravans and maybe even an airplane. Each jump and trick the driver does is judged during the free-style round of the show. Depending on the arena, the driver will have 60 to 90 seconds to do a free-style routine. Judging is based on creativity, style and the degree of skill.

Each monster truck has its own name. The most recognizable truck is Grave Digger, with its green flames running down the sides. Some of the most famous trucks in the shows are Grinder, El Toro Loco, Madusa, Captain's Curse, Maximum Destruction and Monster Mutt. The show even has three superhero themed trucks: Ironman, Batman and Superman. The trucks that are coming to the New Hampshire show are Grave Digger, driven by Randy Brown; Man of Steel, driven by Joey Parnell; Hurricane Force, driven by Steven Thompson; Storm Damage, driven by Tim Mente; Higher Education, driven by Jim Tracy; and Iron Warrior, driven by Trey Meyers.

These monster trucks are usually around 12 feet tall and 12 feet wide and weigh 10,000 tons. The driver's seat is in the middle of the truck so the driver can best see the track and have even weight distribution, and it is custom molded to the driver. The tires for the trucks are all custom made and must be 66 inches inches high and 43 inches wide.

"One of the most thrilling ways to get close to these huge Monster Jam trucks is at the Monster Jam Pit Party," Regan said. "This ticketed pre-show experience provides event goers with unparalleled access by allowing them onto the actual racetrack where they will meet the drivers and collect their autographs, take photos and explore the obstacles they'll jump over and eventually destroy."

Each year the Monster Jam World Finals are in Las Vegas at the Sam Boyd Stadium; this is the last stop on the tour. Here, the trucks will compete for the world title.

"Monster Jam provides entertainment tailored perfectly for every family's budget, and the colorful, larger-than-life Monster Jam trucks capture the hearts of both the young and the old," Regan said.



Monster Jam truck Grave Digger. Courtesy photo.

Monster Jam

Where: Verizon Wireless Arena, 555 Elm St., Manchester
When: Friday, Jan. 3, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 4, at 2 and 7:30 p.m.
Tickets: $20 to $45 or $10 for kids; call the box office (644-5000) or purchase tickets through ticketmaster.com. All tickets are $2 more the day of the show.
Visit: verizonwirelessarena.com and monsterjam.com

Children & Teens

Events

•SANTAS BIG PARTY Charmingfare Farm (774 High St., Candia, visitthefarm.com) will have a party with Santa and all his friends on weekends the entire month of Dec. until the 22. Check in times are from 10 to 1:30 p.m. Admission is $17.

• DOLLAR DEAL Children's Museum of New Hampshire (6 Washington St., Dover, 742-2002, childrens-museum.org) will have dollar deal nights admission to the museum one Friday in every month starting in Dec. to June. Admission to the museum will be $1.The first event is Dec. 6, from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

•MUSIC WITH JACKIE The Hollis Public Library (2 Monument Square, Hollis, 465-7721, hollislibrary.org) will have music with Miss Jackie on Fri., Dec. 20, at 11:30 a.m. The program is for just born and up. Register online or call.

•SANTA LIVE! The Londonderry Access Center will have Santa and Mrs. Claus live on Sat., Dec. 21, from 12 to 2 p.m. (281 Mammoth Road, Londonderry, 4320-1100, lactv.com). Children will be able to take pictures with Santa.

•ALL DAY CRAFTS The Wadleigh Memorial Library (49 Nashua St., Milford, 249-0645, wadleighlibrary.org) will have an all day holiday craft making day for children on Sat., Dec. 21, from 9 to 1 p.m.

•STORYTIME IN THE GALLERY The Currier Art Museum (150 Ash St., Manchester, 669-6144, currier.org) will have story time on Mon., Dec. 23, at 11:30 p.m. Free with admission to the museum.

• FISHWAYS OPEN HOUSE Amoskeag Fishways Learning Center (PO Box 330, Manchester, 626-3474, amoskeagfishways.org) will have its annual thank you open house with two presentations, food, and prizes on Dec. 27, from 11 to 3 p.m. This event is free.

•CRAFTS AND COOKIE ICING The Hollis Public Library (2 Monument Square, Hollis, 465-7721, hollislibrary.org) will have a Christmas crafts and cookie icing event on Dec. 28, at 6 p.m. No registration required. Ages 3 and up.

•DAYTIME BALL DROP The Children's Museum of NH will have a daytime New Year's Eve celebration on Tues., Dec. 31, from 10 to 3 p.m. (6 Washington St., Dover, 742-2002, childrens-museum.org). Countdowns to midnight will be at 11, 12:30 and 2 p.m. Admission is $9 per person.

• NOON YEARS EVE The Currier Art Museum (150 Ash St., Manchester, 669-6144, currier.org) will have a New Year's Eve on Tues., Dec. 31, from 11 to 3 p.m. There will be bubble wrap fireworks, a balloon drop, face painting, ice carving and more.

• DISNEY ON ICE Verizon Wireless Arena (555 Elm St., Manchester, 644-5000, verizonwirelessarena.com) will host Disney on Ice's Princesses & Hope on Jan. 15 through the 17, at 7 p.m., Jan 18, at 10:30, 2:30 and 6:30 p.m, and Jan 19, at 11:00 and 3:00p.m. Tickets start at $22 and are available at ticketmaster.com.

Crafts

Jewelry/beading

•ZIGZAG BRICK STITCH BRACELET The League of NH Craftsmen (98 Main St., Nashua, 595-8233, nhcrafts.org) will have a class to make a stitch bracelet on Sat., Feb. 15, from 10:30 to 3:30 p.m. Cost is $45 and materials are $20. Ages 15 and up.

•EARRINGS IN A DAY The League of NH Craftsmen (98 Main St., Nashua, 595-8233, nhcrafts.org) will have a class to make earrings on Sat., Mar. 1, from 10:30 to 4:30 p.m. Cost is $70 and materials are $20. Ages 14 and up.

•KUMIHIMO NECKLACE The League of NH Craftsmen (98 Main St., Nashua, 595-8233, nhcrafts.org) will have a necklace workshop on Sat., May 31, from 10:30 to 4:30 p.m. Cost is $55 and materials are $25. Ages 15 and up.

• BEAD PLAYDATE at Bead Bush Studio (43 Mount Delight Road, Deerfield), every Thursday, 10 a.m.-noon. Create bead projects and get help with existing projects. Admission is free and registration is not required. Call 463-7683 or visit www.beadbush.com.

• BEADING GROUP at Rodgers Memorial Library (194 Derry Road, Hudson) meets on the fourth Saturday of the month, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Visit therovingbeaders.com.

• FUNDAMENTALS OF MAKING JEWELRY at Sussy-Rose Studio (35 Howard St., Wilton). Classes are taught on Wednesdays and Thursdays and students can individually schedule six two-hour sessions. Enrollment is $210 and materials fees can vary. Call 595-8233 or email nashuarg@nhcrafts.org.

Knitting

• BROOKLINE PUBLIC LIBRARY (16 Main St., Brookline, 673-3330, brookline.nh.us) has a knitting, crocheting and cross-stitch group that meets Mondays at 6 p.m. The group is



SING-A-LONG

Friends of Stark Park (River Road, Manchester, friendsofstarkpark.org) will have a Christmas carolling event on Sunday, Dec. 22, from 4 to 5 p.m. Donations of a non-perishable food item are requested for the sing-a-long event, which will benefit the New Horizon's Soup Kitchen. Musical accompaniment and song sheets will be provided, and attendees are encouraged to bring their own battery-operated candle or flashlight. The event is free and open to the public.

informal and drop-ins are welcome.

• **DROP-IN KNITTING CLUB** Social Library, 2 Monument Square, Hollis, every Tuesday, 3-4 p.m. Call 465-7721. Meet, mingle and trade yarns with local knitters. Compare patterns, sharing techniques and trading tips. Drop in, no signup required.

• **DROP-IN STITCHERS** Fridays, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., at Rodgers Memorial Library, 194 Derry Road (Route 102), Hudson. Work on knitting, crocheting, cross-stitching or any other needlework project with company, and pass the time while sharing ideas and techniques for future work. Call 886-6030.

• **THE ELEGANT EWE** (71 S. Main St., Concord, 226-0066, elegantewe.com) offers a variety of knitting classes and workshops, as well as classes in felting and spinning.

• **FRIDAY NIGHT KNITTING CLUB** every Friday 6-10 p.m. at the Yarn and Fiber Co. (11 Manchester Road, Derry, yarnandfiber.com). Open project, no fee. Bring an existing project or start a new one. Call 505-4432.

• **GOOD YARN KNITTING GROUP** at Concord Public Library (45 Green St., Concord) meets on Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m. Bring your supplies and equipment and share ideas and techniques with other knitters and crocheters. Call 225-8670.

• **HOOKSETT PUBLIC LIBRARY** (31 Mount Saint Mary's Way, Hooksett, 485-6092, hooksettlibrary.org) hosts a learning-to-knit circle every Friday, 1-2 p.m., in the adult room of the library. Tea and coffee are served.

• **KELLEY LIBRARY** (234 Main St., Salem) Wed., 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., and Thurs., 7-8:30 p.m. Any level knitter or crocheter is welcome to join. Call 898-7064.

• **KNIT & CROCHET CLASSES** at the Spotted Sheep Yarn Shoppe (9 Church St., Goffstown) Tuesdays, 10-11:30 a.m., and Thursdays, 5:30-7 p.m. Cost is $15 per class for a skein of yarn. Call 660-1115 or visit spottedsheepyarnshoppe.com.

• **KNIT 1, CROCHET 2** club the first Monday of the month, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Wadleigh Library (49 Nashua St. in Milford, 249-0645, wadleighlibrary.org). For all levels.

• **KNIT WITS** meets at Chester Public Library, 3 Chester St., Chester, the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Work on a craft, chat with others and share knowledge. This group is open to all who like to sew, crochet, knit and/or stitch. Contact the library at 887-3404.

• **KNITTING CLUB** every Tuesday at the Hollis Social Library, 3-4 p.m. in the library meeting room. Meet, mingle and trade yarns with local knitters. Have fun comparing patterns, sharing techniques and trading tips on stitches, sweaters and mittens. Drop in, no signup required.

• **KNITTING CLUB** every Friday, at 11 a.m., at West Manchester Library, 76 N. Main St., Manchester, 624-6560. Both experienced and novice knitters are invited to attend. No registration required.

• **KNITTING CLUB** at the Penacook Branch Library (3 Merrimack St., Penacook) meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 6:30 p.m. Call 753-4441.

• **KNITTING WITH MARY** at Rye Public Library (581 Washington Road, Rye) Thursdays at 10 a.m. Adult knitting group open to all levels. Call 964-8401.

• **KNOTTERS KNITTERS** at Meredith Public Library (91 Main St., Meredith) Thursdays, 10 a.m.-noon. Call 279 or visit meredithlibrary.org.

• **NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY** (2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4600, nashualibrary.org) hosts a knitting group every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

• **NEEDLES AND SHUTTLES** meets in The Fiber Studio, Foster Hill Road, Henniker. This informal group welcomes new and experienced knitters to share skills and conversation. Bring a knitting project. Call 428-7830.

• **NESMITH KNITTERS** meets on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at Nesmith Library (8 Fellows Road, Windham, 432-7154, nesmithlibrary.org). All skills and ages welcome.

• **NEW ENGLAND FABRICS** (55 Ralston St., Keene, 352-8683, newenglandfabrics.com) has offered classes in sewing, knitting, quilting and more. Call for the current schedule.

• **SOCKS ON A 12-INCH CIRCULAR NEEDLE** at the Yarn and Fiber Co. (11 Manchester Road, Derry, yarnandfiber.com) on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Cost is $40. Call 505-4432.

• **ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL** in Nashua is looking for volunteers to help knit or crochet comfort shawls for patients who may be seriously ill, undergoing medical procedures, emotionally or physically traumatized, seeking hope and healing or grieving. The need for shawls is ongoing and frequently the supply becomes depleted. Contact the Spiritual Care Department at St. Joseph Hospital at 882-3000, ext. 67800. You will receive more information and a brochure with both knitting and crocheting instructions.

• **STITCHING SOCIALS** at the Spotted Sheep Yarn Shoppe (9 Church St., Goffstown), every Saturday, 2-5 p.m. Knit, crochet and talk with other crafters. Admission is free. Call 660-1115 or visit www.spottedsheepyarnshoppe.com.

• **YARN AND FIBER CO.** (11 Manchester Road, Derry, 505-4432, yarnandfiber.com) offers classes in knitting, as well as Friday night knitting club and classes focused on a single piece.

Pottery & Clay

•**POLYMER CLAY VASE** The League of NH Craftsmen (98 Main St., Nashua, 595-8233, nhcrafts.org) will have a clay vase workshop on Sat., Mar. 15, from 10:30 to 1:30 p.m. Cost is $30 and materials are $10. Ages









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KIDDIE POOL

Family fun for the weekend

Get crafty

To celebrate the season, Wadleigh Memorial Library (49 Nashua St., Milford, 249-0645, wadleighlibrary.org) will have a **holiday craft-making day** for children on Saturday, Dec. 21, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration is not required — just show up and get crafty.

Paint a **Peg Leg Santa at** Muse Paintbar (42 Hanover St., Manchester, 421-6500, musepaintbar.com) on Saturday, Dec. 21, at 3:30 p.m. No experience needed; food will be served. Call to make a reservation.

Stuff to SEE

The SEE Science Center (200 Bedford St., Manchester, 669-0400, see-sciencecenter.org) has unveiled its latest exhibit, **"Science in the Kitchen with Chef Nicole!"** The exhibit features an interactive kid-sized kitchen display where children can play with mini stoves, sinks and refrigerators and learn all about making healthy foods. SEE is open seven days a week; weekend hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is $8 per person ages 3 and up.

The Derry Public Library (64 East Broadway, Derry, 432-6140, derrypl.org) will be showing ***Santa Claus is Coming to Town*** on Saturday, Dec. 21, at 1 p.m. to get children (and their parents, who might remember the older movie) in the Christmas spirit.

If you're tired of Christmas movies, the Nashua Public Library (2 Court Street, Nashua, 589-4600, nashualibrary.org) will be showing ***Wreck It, Ralph*** on Saturday, Dec. 21, at 2 p.m.

And at the Rodgers Memorial Library (194 Derry Road, Hudson, 886-6030, rodgerslibrary.org) catch a showing of ***Despicable Me 2*** on Saturday, Dec. 21, at 1 p.m.

Happy holidays

The Londonderry Access Center (281 Mammoth Road, Londonderry, 432-1100, lactv.com) will host **Santa and Mrs. Claus Live** on Saturday, Dec. 21, from noon to 2 p.m. Children will be able to tell Santa what they want for Christmas on live television and take pictures with Santa.

Santa will be riding the Conway Scenic Railroad (38 Norcross Circle, North Conway, 232-5251, conwayscenic.com) on Sunday, Dec. 22, at 10:30 a.m. **Santa's Holiday Express** will have departures at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Santa will be accompanied by his elves, and there will be hot chocolate and cookies. Prices will vary.

Chilly fun

The **Manchester Monarchs** at the Verizon Wireless Arena (555 Elm Street, Manchester, 626-7825, manchestermonarchs.com) will be playing a home game against the Portland Pirates on Friday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m. Tickets range from $14 to $33 depending on seating.

The American Stonehenge (Salem, stonehengeusa.com) will have a **Winter Solstice celebration ritual** on Sunday, Dec. 22, at 12:11 p.m. The ritual will focus on the coming of the new year and will take place at the main site. Attendees are asked to bring materials for the ritual (find out what at stonehengeusa.com/wintersolstice). RSVP to Katja at 617-365-4024 or email katjacreates@ritualexpressions.com.

12 and up.

• **CLAY 101: WHEEL THROWING AND HAND BUILDING TOGETHER** at Studio 550 Art Center (550 Elm St., Manchester). Learn basics of both techniques and how to expand on basic skills. Visit the website for an up to date schedule. Call 232-5597, email info@550arts.com or visit 550arts.com.

• **LADIES NIGHT** You're Fired Studio (133 Loudon Road, Concord; 25 S. River Road, Bedford, and 264 N. Broadway, Salem, yourefirednh.com) on Tuesdays and Thursdays 5-9 p.m. Half-off studio fee for ladies. Adults only. Call 641-FIRE (Bedford), 226-FIRE (Concord) or 894-KILN (Salem).

• **POTTERY DATE NIGHT** at Studio 550 Art Center (550 Elm St., Manchester) every Friday, 6-7:30 p.m., or 7:30 to 9 p.m. Admission is $60 per couple. Call 232-5597 or visit 550arts.com

• **ONE DAY POTTERY/CLAY WORKSHOP** at Studio 550 Art Center (550 Elm St., Manchester) every second Saturday of the month, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Admission is $45. Call 232-5597 or visit 550arts.com.

Quilting

• **AMERICA'S BYWAYS QUILT SHOWCASE** seeks quilters from New Hampshire to participate in the Great Lakes Seaway Trail Quilt Show. The theme is "Beauty of the Byways." Guidelines are available online at seawaytrail.com/quilting.

• **AMOSKEAG QUILTERS GUILD** meets at Emmanuel Baptist Church, 14 Mammoth Road, Hooksett, on the third Thursday of each month, at 7 p.m. Email more.info@amoskeagqg.org or visit amoskeagqg.org.

• **BEDFORD FRIENDSHIP QUILT GUILD** meets the third Tuesday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the fellowship room of the Bedford Presbyterian Church to make quilts for children in Families in Transition. Call Pam Mikkola at 472-9225 or Lois Tourangeau at 424-0417.

• **THE CAPITAL QUILTERS GUILD** (capitalquiltersguild.org) holds meetings the second Friday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Havenwood Heritage Heights in Concord. The Guild also offers classes.

• **GIRLS NIGHT OUT** at Pine Tree Quilt Shop (224 N. Broadway, Salem, pinetreequiltshop.com) on Saturdays 5-10 p.m. Cost is $15 per month. Call 870-8100.

• **KEARSARGE QUILTERS** meet on the second Tuesday of each month, 1-3 p.m., at Main-

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IN/OUT

Birds of prey

Amoskeag Fishways hosts "Winter Hawks and Owls"

By Kaitlin Joseph
kjoseph@hippopress.com

An owl has to move its entire head to see what's surrounding it, because its eyes are fixed sockets, giving it binocular vision.

When hawks dive down for their prey, it's estimated that they can reach speeds of 150 miles an hour or more.

These are some examples of what kids can learn when they visit Amoskeag Fishways during Family Friday Night event. This Friday, there will be a presentation called "Winter Hawks and Owls."

"The program is for children and families, and it's a mix of learning about the birds while trying to throw some fun things in there like games and activities," said Rachel Brown, who will lead the presentation.

Through these games and hands-on activities kids will learn all about different hawks and owls. While there are no live birds, children will get to see hawk wings, talons, feathers, pictures and pellets from the birds. Children will learn about how these animals survive in the winter, how they get their food and how different their eyesight is from humans'.

"I think the kids' favorite thing is when they get to see and touch real things," Brown said of the talons and feathers.

"I think it's important for people to know about the animals, know that they're wild and the way that they survive," she said. "People need to know to respect them and leave them alone and know what they can do and watch out for them."



A Red-Tailed Hawk. Courtesy photo.

Winter Hawks and Owls
When: Friday, Dec. 20, from 7 to 8 p.m.
Where: Amoskeag Fishways, 4 Fletcher St., Manchester
Cost: $5 per family
Visit: amoskeagfishways.org

Street BookEnds (16 E. Main St., Warner, 456-2700, mainstreetbookends.com)

• **NASHUA SEW AND VAC** (228 DW Hwy, Nashua, 888-2757, nashuasewandvac.com) offers classes in quilting and sewing, including classes for children.

• **NEW ENGLAND FABRICS** (55 Ralston St., Keene, 352-8683, newenglandfabrics.com) has offered classes in sewing, knitting, quilting and more. Call for current schedule.

• **NH STATE QUILTERS ASSOCIATION** (nhsqa.org) offers membership for $10 per year.

• **NH QUILTERS' EMPORIUM** (nhqe.com) a New Hampshire-based online quilt store.

• **PEGGY ANNE'S QUILTING AND SEWING** 57 N. Main St., Concord, 223-2344, peggyannes.com offers classes in quilting, sewing and more.

• **PIECE MAKERS QUILT GUILD** meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m., in the basement of the Holy Cross Church (118 Center Road, Weare). Email JLL3311@juno.com.

• **PINE TREE QUILT SHOP** (224 N. Broadway, Salem, 870-8100, pinetreequiltshop.com) offers quilting classes for all levels of ability. See website for a complete list.

• **STITCHING UP THE WORLD** isa nonprofit group of volunteers who knit, crochet or sew items for charities on the third Thursday of each month, 7-9 p.m. at Smyth Public Library (55 High St., Candia). Visit candiawomansgroup.org or call 587-0603.

Scrapbooking & paper

• **NEVER ENDING CARD** Kalily Studio (27 Huckins Road, Epsom, kalilystudio.com) will host a card class on Jan. 26, from 2 to 4 p.m. Cost is $12 to make one card, $15 to make two. Nashua, with Ruth Boland on Thursdays (6:15-9:15 p.m.) and Fridays (9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) year-round. Tuition is $20 per class. Students can choose from numerous skill-level-appropriate projects and progress at their own pace with teacher assistance. All levels from beginner to advanced are welcome. Call 595-8233 or email nashuarg@nhcrafts.org.

• **INTRO BOOK ARTS** at Studio 550 Art Center (550 Elm St., Manchester) Fridays, 6-7:15 p.m. Learn the basics of book arts and book binding. The class will center on paper alteration and augmentation skills. Call 232-5597, email info@550arts.com or visit 550arts.com.

• **FREE CROP** at Scrappin' Soul Sisters (7 Perely St., Concord, scrappinsoulsisters.com) Tuesdays 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• **MARY'S MEMORIES** (12 Clark Road, Milford, 249-8978, marysmemories.com) offers individual lessons, one-session workshops and a basic scrapbooking class.

• **PAPER TECHNIQUES** workshops will be held at Rodgers Memorial Library, 194 Derry Road (Route 102), Hudson, on the first Thursday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Learn how to make things out of paper. Projects include scrapbooking,

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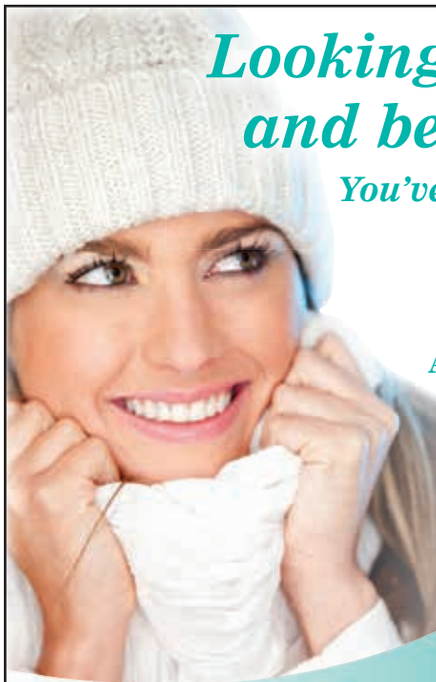
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IN/OUT

O Christmas trees

Two festivals, dozens of decorated trees



Open house event for the Antrim Festival of Trees. Courtesy photo.

By Kaitlin Joseph
kjoseph@hippopress.com

Sixteen Christmas trees or a hundred, "Inspiring Joy" theme or no theme at all, Warner and Antrim's tree festivals are different in size and execution, but both are adding a touch of cheer to the holiday season.

"This year's theme is 'Inspiring Joy,' so we do have a couple of unique trees," said Dan Watts, who helped organize the Warner Festival of Trees with his wife, Mary. "The Warner Historical Society tree is hung upside down, and Katts Creations has an invisible tree with only lights and ornaments."

Sixteen trees were decorated by local businesses, schools, organizations and individuals.

"Some trees are decorated with handmade ornaments, some are decorated with items that fit a specific theme for their organization. Last year we had a tree with over 100 antique tea cups; this year one has Santas," Watts said of the tree decorations. "Some are decorated with items that complement the yearly theme, and others are more traditional in ornamentation."

Some of the trees in the festival were decorated by Gear up for Life, Hannah Dustin Society CAR, Katts Creations, Mercy Hathaway White Chapter NSDAR, Pelletieri Fine Gardening, Pillsbury Free Library, Pine Rock Manor, Simonds School, Therapeutique, United Church of Warner, Velvet Moose, Warner 4H, Warner Historical Society, Warner Town Hall Staff and the Warner Woman's Club.

"For Warner, it is a community event that brings people together, getting people to visit the Town Hall and celebrate the downtown area," Watts said. "Many residents make it a tradition to bring friends and family to see the trees at the Town Hall."

Admission to see the trees is free.

"We ask only that you sign our guest book, and let us know what you thought of the display," Mary Watts said. "We are hoping that our visitors will also tour one or two of the local businesses that give of their own efforts and finances to make sure this festival continues each year."

The Warner Festival of Trees, which opened Saturday, Dec. 7, will be on display until Friday, Dec. 27, in the Warner Town Hall lobby. View the trees Monday through Friday from 8 to 7 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 9 to 7 p.m.

Antrim Festival of Trees
When: Now through Jan. 1
Where: James A. Tuttle Library, 45 Main St., Antrim
Time: Monday and Wednesday 2 to 6 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday 2 to 8 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to noon, and on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Cost: Free
Visit: antrimfestivaloftrees.org

Warner Festival of Trees
When: Now through Dec. 27
Where: Warner Town Hall, 5 E. Main St.
Time: Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday through Sunday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Cost: Free
Visit: kearsargechamber.org

Over in Antrim, the town is holding its fourth annual Festival of Trees event, with about 100 trees on display as well a variety of other holiday items, including wreaths, paintings and a village display.

Each year, the trees get more creative than the previous year, said Kristy Boule, a member of the festival committee.

"We have Handy Man Ed, which was submitted by Edmund Hardware store, which looks like a person, with blue lightbulb eyes and motion-sensored music," Boule said. "We also have Mai Tai, which was made up of ties where there was a guessing game to guess how many. There is also a mitten tree, a magic tree and even a Harry Potter-themed tree with candles suspended from the ceiling."

Each year, everyone is welcome to enter a tree into the festival, Boule said, not just Antrim residents. The trees are voted on when the festival opens (this year it was Nov. 30).

Enchanted Time, by Gretchen Lyon, won this year's Gilded Tree Award for an outstanding tree display. Some of the honorable mentions include The Season of Magic, Gifts of the Forest, The Mitten, Handy Man Ed, The Grinch, Holiday Helping Hands, Mai Tai, New Life, Nothing Fancy, We're Nuts About Christmas, Have a Doggone Good Christmas, A Quilter's Christmas, The Saw Tree, Childhood's Best Friends, and Snowplace Like Home.

"[The trees] range from handmade things to stuff that is really eclectic, and not so traditional with colored trees, and we really encourage that since not everyone has the same access. People really run with that and expand on it," Boule said.

"Times are tough for a lot of people," she added. "It's just one of those little things that puts a smile on people's faces."

The Antrim Festival of Trees opened on Nov. 30. The trees will be on display until Jan. 1 at the James A. Tuttle Library. The festival is free. Visitors can see the trees on Monday and Wednesday 2 to 6 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday 2 to 8 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to noon, and on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

card-making, stamping, quilting and decoupage. Register at 886-6030.

• **STAMPING MEMORIES** (96 DW Hwy., Belmont, 528-0498, nhstampingmemories.com, info@nhstampingmemories.com) offers classes on a variety of kinds of card-making.

• **TALK PAPER SCISSORS** (Willow Tree Plaza, 575 S. Willow St., Manchester, 669-8009, talkpaperscissors.com) offers introductory scrapbooking classes, as well as classes on specific aspects of scrapbooking (collage-making, art journaling) and on crafts such as card-making and lampshade-decorating.

• **THURSDAY NIGHT SCRAPPERS** at Pine Tree Quilt Shop (224 N. Broadway, Salem, 870-8100, pinetreequiltshop.com) on the third Thursday of the month 5:30-8:30 p.m. Get help and work on unfinished project or learn a new technique. Cost is $12 per session.

Sewing

• **DROP-IN STITCHERS** on Fridays, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Rodgers Memorial Library, 194 Derry Road (Route 102), Hudson. Work on knitting, crocheting, cross-stitching or any other needlework project with company, and pass the time while sharing ideas and techniques for future work. Call 886-6030.

• **LEVESQUE SEWING MACHINE** (1261 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 645-1661, levesquesewvac.com) offers classes from beginner to advanced in sewing and quilting. Classes are scheduled according to demand; call to find out about availability.

• **MERRI STITCHES** (72 Mirona Road, Portsmouth, 431-9922; 58 Range Road, Windham, 685-0185, merristitches.com) offers classes and workshops, as well as a sit and sew. Visit the website for a schedule at each store.

• **NASHUA SEW AND VAC** (228 DW Hwy, Nashua, 888-2757, nashuasewandvac.com) offers classes in quilting and sewing, including classes for children.

• **NEW ENGLAND FABRICS** (55 Ralston St., Keene, 352-8683, newenglandfabrics.com) has offered classes in sewing, knitting, quilting and more. Call for schedule.

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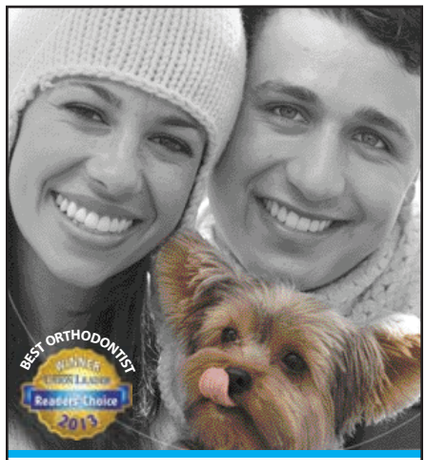


HISTORY OF OUR CALENDAR

The Rodgers Memorial Library (194 Derry Road, Hudson, 886-6030, rodgerslibrary.org) will have a presentation about our calendar with medieval historian Jonathan Cousar on Thursday, Dec. 19, at 6 p.m. "Feasts and Festivals in the Middle Ages: Where our Calendar Comes From" will discuss how the year took shape, including why holidays are when they are. Cousar will explain why some religious holidays are in winter and patriotic ones are in the summer. The event will be at the Hills Memorial Library Building at 18 Library St. It is part of the monthly open house programs at the library.

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IN/OUT TREASURE HUNT



Hi Donna,

This is a picture of St. Cecilia, and I was wondering if it is worth anything, but I can't quite make out the signature. It looks like G Nori. What do you think?

— Madeline

Dear Madeline,

Your Victorian print of Saint Cecilia was among many. I have seen several of this exact one in many sizes and in different frames as well. There were so many religious prints done through time, by so many artists.

Prints are made to mass produce famous original art work, be it in oil, watercolor, etc. Most of the time they are signed, and sometimes they are even hand colored in areas. But yours is just considered a print. The artist can always be significant to its value, but I can't even figure out the writing on yours.

I have seen your print in the market for around $25, but I have to say I think it would be for the elegant Victorian brass frame it is in. If it were in a plain wooden frame the value would be less.

When I was a child I remember seeing such prints in my grandparents' home, and now when I buy out estates I see many in each home stored down in the basement or in attics. It was common back then to see them hanging, but not often these days do you see these wonderful religious prints.

Donna Welch has spent more than 20 years in the antiques and collectibles field and owns From Out Of The Woods Antique Center in Goffstown (fromoutofthewoodsantiques.com). She is an antiques appraiser and instructor. To find out about your antique or collectible, send a clear photo of the object and information about it to Donna Welch, From Out Of The Woods Antique Center, 465 Mast Road, Goffstown, N.H., 03045. Or email her at footwdw@aol.com. Or drop by the shop (call first, 624-8668).

2344, peggyannes.com) offers classes on quilting, sewing and more. See schedule on website.

Spinning

• **THE ELEGANT EWE** (71 S. Main St., Concord, 226-0066, elegantewe.com) offers workshops in spinning.

• **KEARSARGE AREA WOOL SPINNERS** meet on the last Tuesday of every month, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Main Street Bookends (16 E. Main St., Warner, 456-2700, mainstreetbookends.com).

• **SOUTHERN NH WOOL SPINNERS** meet at Wadleigh Memorial Library (49 Nashua St., Milford, 673-2408, wadleigh.lib.nh.us) on the first and third Wed. of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Beginners always welcome. Contact Elizabeth at eeskipper@comcast.net.

Health & Wellness

Workshops, seminars & events

• **BETTER CHOICES, BETTER HEALTH** Hooksettt Public Library (31Mt. St. Mary's Way, Hooksett, 485-6092, hooksettlibrary.org) will host a 6 week program for seniors with chronic conditions starting on Fri., Jan 3, from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Register online or by phone.

• **INSURANCE MARKETPLACE** The Pelham Public Library (24 Village Green, Pelham, 635-7581, pelhampubliclibrary.org) will have a representative from Planned Parenthood of Northern New England avaliable to help sign up for the Affordable Care Act on Tues., Jan. 7, at 10:30 a.m. Register as space is limited.

• **POWERFUL TOOLS FOR CAREGIVERS** Hooksettt Public Library (31Mt. St. Mary's Way, Hooksett, 485-6092, hooksettlibrary.org) is having a 6 week program to cope with caregiving starting on Tues., Jan. 7, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Registration is required.

• **PORTION DISTORTION** Derry Medical Wellness Center (14 Tsienneto Road, Derry, 537-3033, derrymedicalcenter.com) will have a presentation on Wed., Jan 8, from 5 to 6 p.m. Cost is $10.

•**BRINGING POSITIVE ENERGY** Beaver Brooke Nature Center (117 Ridge Road, Hollis, 465-7787, beaverbrook.org) will have a presentation on Jan. 11, from 11:30 to 2 p.m. on how to simplify your life by ridding yourself one thing for 24 days. Cost is $35. Call to register.

•**WELLNESS FESTIVAL** The Center for Expressive Arts Therapy and Education will have the second annual wellness festival on Sat., Jan. 14, from 9 to 2 p.m. at C.R.E.A.T.E (141 Union St., Manchester, nikkisdreamwellnessfestival.evenbrite.com) Entrace fee is $20.

Miscellaneous

Bake/yard sales/ fundraisers/auctions

•**BEDDING DRIVE** Salon Apryl (2 Somerset Parkway, Nashua, 886-5701, salonapryl.com) is having a bedding and blanket drive to benefit Harbor Homes through the month of December. At Salon Apryl , purchase a $10 raffle ticket for a chance to win an overnight at the Crown Plaza.

• **FOOD DRIVE** YMCA of Greater Nashua (24 Stadium Dr., Nashua, 882-2011, nmymca.org) is holding a food drive for Nashua Soup Kitchen and Merrimack Food Pantry throughout the month of December. A canned food item will waive a signup fee for membership.

• **WARM HANDS WARM HEARTS** Cardea Center (390 Portsmouth Ave., Greenland, 433-2023, cardeacenterforwomen.org) is collecting mittens and blankets for Cross Roads House for their Warm Hands, Warm Hearts Campaign until Dec. 23.

• **CELEBRATE 50 YEARS** Beaver Brook Association (117

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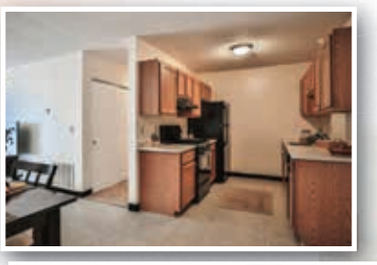
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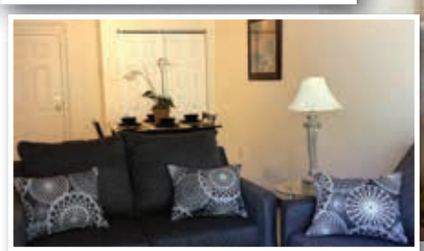
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IN/OUT THE GARDENING GUY

Holiday décor

Make your home cheerful

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com



Winterberries make a great centerpiece. Henry Homeyer photo.

Recently the weather has been dismal: dark gray days with precipitation off and on. Over the centuries people have combated the darkness with candles, bonfires, holiday lights and sprigs of greenery placed on the door or brought inside. Let's look at what we can do.

First, I regularly visit my local independent florist. Florists are a dying breed, along with independent bookstores and family-owned hardware stores. Call me an old codger, but I believe that there is value in supporting all of these institutions, even if I pay a dollar or two more for what I buy. The owners of these institutions have a wealth of knowledge and are happy to help you find what you need, and often their prices and quality are better.

For example, I believe that the flowers I get from my florist last longer and look better than flowers bought at a big box store. I ask my florist to put together a bouquet of flowers for me, and she picks a nice selection; $10 will usually buy a generous bouquet.

Keeping the bouquet fresh takes regular maintenance: I change the water every day or two, and trim off half an inch of stem each time. It's also important to remove all leaves that might get into the water. When the leaves die, bacteria grow and slime forms, blocking the uptake of water so they wilt.

A few years ago I called my florist to see if she had any potted phalaenopsis orchids for sale. Surprisingly, she told me to go to a big box store, and I did. I was amazed to see them for sale under $15. Certain big box stores obviously have suppliers who sell them truck loads of these hardy and gorgeous orchids. So most florists don't even try to compete.

Phalaenopsis orchids are relatively easy to maintain and can be coaxed to produce more blossoms in future years. They want bright diffuse light: a table top in a bright room is fine. The key is to avoid overwatering. These orchids are sold growing in a fast-draining bark mixture without soil. The roots are in a plastic mesh pot with holes which sits inside a "cache" pot that has no drainage hole. I lift the inner pot out of the outer, and allow water to run through the bark chips once a week. I allow it to drain, then return it to the cache pot. If you water the plant in the outer pot, it collects water at the base, eventually drowning your orchid.

I also scavenge twigs, branches, dry flowers and berries to add to flower arrangements, or to create my own. Each fall I cut hydrangea blossoms and store them in tall flower pots without water; they last well all winter.

Teasel is a dreaded weed for corn farmers in the Midwest, but I grow a few plants each summer and use it as a dry flower in winter arrangements. This plant is biennial, meaning that it blooms in its second year of life, and then dies. It gets to be over 6 feet tall and displays wonderful seed pods that have sharp barbs and spines. The key is to learn to identify the first year plants so that you can weed out most of them before they mature.

Evergreen boughs are nice indoors at this time of year. Just be careful where you make your cuts. Never take the top of a small tree, or the tip of a prominent branch. Most do not replace the missing branch, or will send out several new branches instead of just one. So you can spoil the look of your evergreen by snipping branches carelessly. Cut inner branches, or take pieces from inconspicuous places.

Canadian hemlock is plentiful in woods everywhere, but the needles do not last well indoors. (Identify them by their short, flat needles.) Your best bet is to buy a Christmas tree that is a little too tall and then cut off branches at the base to use in vases or swags. White pine lasts well in a vase and is very common (Identify them by their five long, soft needles per cluster of needles).

Of the berries, the brightest and best looking is winterberry (Ilex verticillata), our native deciduous holly. These are understory trees or tall shrubs that grow wild in wet places and swamps, but also make satisfactory garden plants. They are dioecious, which means you need a boy bush to go with the females — or no berries. The berries are commonly sold by florists and grocers, and look great, though they tend to drop a few berries on the table before long. I don't know how to keep that from happening.

Last but not least, I am cheered up by outdoor winter lights. In recent years the industry has come up with LED lights that use almost no electricity – less than 5 watts a string instead of the 5 watts a bulb we had in my youth. So I place them in my garden on trees and shrubs and run them late into the winter. It's all part staying cheerful while living in the Great North.

Henry Homeyer is a gardening teacher, coach and public speaker. Reach him at henry.homeyer@comcast.net or P.O. Box 364, Cornish Flat, NH 03746. Please include a stamped envelope if sending a real letter.



PREVENTING FORECLOSURE

NeighborWorks (162 Burket Street, Nashua, tmccourt@nwsnh.org, hometeamnh.org) is going to have a foreclosure prevention and intervention seminar on Thursday, Dec. 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. Some topics that will be covered at the workshop will be steps to avoid foreclosure, short sales and mortgage loan modifications, foreclosure scams and preparing a household budget. This event is free. Register online or by email.

Ridge Road, Hollis, 465-7787, beaverbrook.org) is celebrating their 50 year anniversary at LaBelle Winery on Wed., Jan. 15, from 6 to 9 p.m. Ticket is $69.

• **PATRICK PASS** Londonderry High School (295 Mammoth Road, Londonderry, 207-871-7876, londonderry.org/lhs) will host Patrick Pass and other former New England Patriot players on Sat., Jan. 25, at 1 p.m. for its annual Alumni Charity Basketball game. Tickets are $10.

Holiday events

• **FESTIVAL OF TREES** James A. Tuttle Library (45 Main St., Antrim, antrimfestivaloftrees.org)will host the festival of trees through Jan. 4 on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2 to 6 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 8 p.m., Friday from 9 to 12 p.m. and Saturday from 10 to 4 p.m. This event is free.

• **CAROLING** The Rye Public Library (581 Washington Road, Rye, 964-8401, ryepubliclibrary.org) will have a caroling event on Fri., Dec. 20, from 4 to 5 p.m. Refreshments will be available.

• **LOVE CAME DOWN** The New Beginnings AG Church (130, Conant St., Manchester, newbeginningsmanchester.com) will have a Christmas concert and candle light service on Sat., Dec. 21, at 6 p.m. This event is free and refreshments will be served.

• **CHRISTMAS AT BROOKSIDE** Brookside Congregational Church (2013 Elm St., Manchester, 669-2807, brooksidecc.org) will have their choir perform at their 4th annual Christmas at Brookside on Dec. 21, at 3 p.m. At 2:30 p.m. there will be cookies and cocoa. This event is free.

• **VINTAGE CHRISTMAS TROLLEY** Downtown Portsmouth (28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 766-2192, vintagechristmasnh.org) will have trolley rides on Sat., Dec. 21 and Sun., Dec 22, from 1:30 to 10:30 p.m. The route is 15 minutes long.

• **CANDLELIGHT STROLL** Downtown Portsmouth (28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 766-2192, vintagechristmasnh.org) will have a stroll at Strawbery Bank on Sat., Dec. 21, from 5 to 9 p.m., and on Sun., Dec. 22, from 4 to 8 p.m.

•**CHRISTMAS CAROLS** Friends of Stark Park (River Road, Manchester, friendsofstarkark.org) will have a Christmas carolling event on Sun., Dec. 22, from 4 to 5 p.m. Musical accompaniment and song sheets will be provided. Please bring a non-perishable food item to donate for the New Horizon's Soup Kitchen. Bring your own battery operated candle or flashlight. This event is free.

• **CHRISTMAS EVE** The Milford Oval (Downtown Milford) will have a Christmas Eve event on Tues., Dec. 24, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. There will be caroling and refreshments.

• **GUIDED HOUSE TOUR** Downtown Portsmouth (28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 766-2192, vintagechristmasnh.org) will have a guided house tour at Strawberry Banke from Dec. 26 to 30, from 10 to 2 p.m.

Pets

• **CANINE MASSAGE** Learn about a dog's total wellness from Tracey Brown, who works primarily through Baker Wells Animal Hospital, Hampton Falls/Seabrook, 978-337-7965, paws-in-hand.com.

• **DOG OBEDIENCE CLASSES** at Greater Derry Humane Society, Salty Lane Farm, Lane Road, Derry, on Monday evenings. Cost is $75 for a six-week session. Registration required, and dog must be current with all inoculations. Owner must accompany pets. Learn grooming, body language, behavioral modification, discipline, nutrition and more. Call 432-1512 or visit derryhumanesociety.com.

• **FELINE ADOPTIONS** with Animal Allies, 476 Front St., Manchester, on Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays, noon-3 p.m.

• **FREE SPAY/NEUTER FOR PIT BULLS** at the Manchester Animal Shelter (490 Dunbarton Road, Manchester, 628-3544, manchesteranimalshelter.org). The Friends of the Manchester Animal Shelter is sponsoring Fix-a-Pit, the city's spay/neuter program free of cost to pit bull owners who live in Manchester. Fix-a-Pit will provide city pit bull owners with a free spay/neuter, rabies vaccine and a microchip. Call 628-3544.

• **HORSE/FARM ANIMAL CLINICS** at Gelinas Farm, 471 4th Range Road, Pembroke,



HELP THE ANIMALS

Jeca Yoga (55 South Commercial Street, Manchester, 204-4284, jecayoga.com) will be offering a free yin yoga class on Tuesday, Dec. 24, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. The class will benefit the Manchester Animal Shelter with donations of supplies in exchange for money. The supply wish list is available online. Please register for the class.









Old clutch idea still holds true



Dear Tom and Ray:

I am an old-timer and have driven manual transmissions since the late '60s. In those days, I was told that it is not good to leave the clutch depressed when at a stoplight, as it would prematurely wear out the throw-out bearing. I am now driving a 2009 Mini Cooper with a six-speed manual transmission, and I'm wondering if this old rule still applies. Or has modern technology improved to the point where this is no longer an issue? Thank you! — Joe

TOM: No. Modern technology has not improved to the point where this is not an issue.

RAY: In other words, it's still an issue.

TOM: In fact, back in the late '60s, it was far easier to change a release (aka throw-out) bearing when one went bad. Many simple, rear-wheel-drive cars from that era had transmissions that you could take out with half a dozen bolts.

RAY: Or, put a less-appealing way, the transmission could fall out of the car if only half a dozen bolts worked themselves loose!

TOM: On some cars, like Chryslers and AMCs, you could have the transmission out and on the floor, and a new release bearing in, in half an hour!

RAY: These days, it's a nightmare. You have to pull the sub frame down, and sometimes you have to pull the engine and transmission together. So you want to do everything you can to prolong your release bearing's existence.

TOM: To do that, you do exactly what you've been doing since the '60s, Joe: You don't sit at a traffic light with your foot on the clutch; instead, put the transmission in neutral, and take your foot off the clutch pedal. Your release bearing is working only when the clutch pedal is depressed.

RAY: By the way, if a customer ever does need a release bearing these days, we will always put in a completely new clutch at the same time. With all that labor involved, you'd be really ticked off if you replaced the release bearing only to have the clutch fail six months later.

TOM: And the reverse is true, too. If a person needs a clutch, we always put in a new release bearing at the same time.

RAY: But at $1,800 for a clutch job these days, you want to put it off as long as possible. So rest that left leg, Joe.

Dear Tom and Ray:

The clock in my Jeep Liberty requires resetting every two weeks. Apparently, the clock is moving backward in time. After two weeks, the clock will be three minutes slow. What causes this? Is this an indication of a larger problem? — Atom

TOM: Yes, it's an indication of a larger problem. The problem is that Chrysler wasn't aiming for bulletproof quality when they made this vehicle.

RAY: And apparently, they opted for a nine-cent clock. That's why it runs slow: The clock is cheap junk, Atom.

TOM: The problem now is that it'll cost you a lot more than the clock is worth to remove and replace it. You don't say what year Liberty it is, but the clock probably is part of the radio display. So you'd have to replace the entire audio system just to fix the clock. And unless you're still under warranty, that's hardly worth the cost and trouble.

RAY: Besides, if the problem is in the manufacturing or design of an inferior part, you'll only be replacing it with another one that'll run slow, too. Maybe slower!

TOM: So you're a candidate for a solution we haven't recommended in many years now: Go buy one of those three-for-a-dollar, stick-on digital clocks, and slap it right over where your clock is.

RAY: It might not be any better in quality (it may even be the same clock!), but at least if it runs slow, you'll have the satisfaction of ripping it off the dashboard, tossing it out the window at high speed and replacing it with a new one for 33 cents.

TOM: Actually, we don't want to condone littering. So after you rip it off the dashboard, take it home with you and run over it a few times in your driveway ... then sweep up the remains, and dispose of them properly, Atom.

Got a question about cars? Visit Click and Clack at cartalk.com.

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Measure to lose

Using numbers for weight control

By Joel Bergeron
listings@hippopress.com



Remember the old saying that weight loss is as simple as portion control and regular physical activity? Well, it's true.

The problem is that most of us don't know where to begin, and stepping on the scale only serves as a negative reminder that whatever we're doing now isn't working. We end up avoiding looking at the numbers because it can be pretty discouraging.

But using numbers in a different way can actually be a very powerful tool for weight management.

If weight loss is your goal, you're going to need four things: a digital bathroom scale, a digital food scale, a measuring cup, and a measuring tape. All can be found at your local chain retailer totaling under $50. In fact, you may already own most of these items.

Almost everyone has a bathroom scale. It's important in monitoring your weight — but you shouldn't become obsessed with it, as your weight can easily fluctuate up or down by as much as 5 to 8 pounds a day!

Measure your weight when you first wake up. Don't be afraid to measure it two two three times per day at first — after a week or two you'll notice that it goes up or down depending on time of day, whether you've been active, or how hydrated you are. It's important to recognize that these fluctuations are normal.

Once a week, use the measuring tape to record your waist and hip circumference. To do this, wrap the tape around your stomach so it's level with your belly button. Stand sideways and look in the mirror to make sure it's in a straight line to increase accuracy. Write this number down.

To measure your hips, wrap it around the widest part of your rear end and follow the same method described for your stomach. These numbers won't change rapidly; losing a half-inch in one area is actually a very big change and should not be discounted.

When preparing meals, read the nutrition label for the food product and measure everything out to be a single serving size.

You might be surprised that you've been eating three times the recommended portions on some things, while others you may be allowed to have more of. Once you find out how much a portion is, you'll use either the measuring cup or the food scale to set aside a more precise amount.



Monitor your weight with a digital scale. Courtesy image.

Now comes the hard part — consistency. The first few weeks will be tough — you'll probably feel hungry. But if you can get past the intense hunger pangs of the first 10 days, you'll notice they subside.

Aim to eat foods that are high in fiber, like whole grains and fruits and vegetables, have a good amount of protein and are low in fat and salt.

Try to "graze" throughout the day, with a combination of three small meals and two to three snacks spread out every two to three hours. Eventually you will notice increased energy, better sensations of satiety and fewer intense cravings for low-quality food.

Get moving too — doing as little as 20 minutes of continuous exercise each day speeds up your metabolism and makes your body burn fat even faster.

Following these tricks provides you with a plan to reshape your body in a healthy manner.

The only catch is you have to make the commitment to doing it consistently if you want to see results. It's OK to have a day or two where the wagon veers off the trail — just don't stay off track for very long.

Do you have a question about health and fitness that you'd like answered in the Healthy Hippo? Email Joel Bergeron at info@nlpstrength.com. Joel is a former NCAA D1 and professional sports coach and holds a master's degree in sport science.

Be sure to check with your doctor before changing your eating habits or embarking on a new exercise program.



CHRISTMAS AT THE OVAL

The Milford Oval (Downtown Milford) will have a Christmas Eve event on Tuesday, Dec. 24, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. There will be caroling and refreshments to celebrate Christmas in a traditional way. The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carolers was first held in London in 1918. Attendees will be able to experience the festival in at the Milford Oval for family time with young and old.

225-7024, gelinasfarm.com. Maneuvering obstacles, cow work, ranch shows and horsemanship, as well as youth farm camps. Call or visit the website for a schedule.

• **HORSE N' HOUND PHYSICAL THERAPY** 531 Amherst St., Nashua, provides physical therapy services to cats, dogs and horses. Call 816-4444 or visit hnhpt.com.

• **LOW-COST SPAY/NEUTER** is available through the Greater Derry Humane Society. Call 434-1512.

• **NH PETSAVE** is an online initiative through 12 New Hampshire animal shelters. The goal of the initiative is to promote awareness of homeless pets and provide services to pets in need. Visit nhpetsave.org.

• **PET FIRST AID** classes from NH Gateway Chapter of Red Cross (28 Concord St., Nashua, 889-6664, nashua.redcross.org). Classes include dog or cat first aid.

• **SPCA PETCO DAY** on the third Saturday of each month, at Petco, 34 Fort Eddy Road, Concord, 225-7355. Visit with Concord-Merrimack County SPCA volunteers and meet pets.

• **VETERINARY EMERGENCY CENTER OF MANCHESTER** 336 Abby Road, Manchester. Call 666-6677.

Games

• **MAHJONG** at the Bedford Public Library (3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford) meets on select Tuesdays and Thursdays, at 1 p.m. The group is currently seeking additional players and those who are interested should contact the Bedford Recreation Department at 472-5242.

• **MAH JONGG** at Rye Public Library (581 Washington Road, Rye) Thursdays, 1-3 p.m. Visit the library for American-style Mah Jongg. All levels welcome. Call 964-8401.

Other

•**WHERE OUR CALENDAR COMES FROM** The Rogers Memorial Library (194 Derry Road, Hudson, 886-6030, rodgerslibrary.org) will have a guided tour with historian, Jonathan Cousar about our calendar on Thurs., Dec. 19, at 6 p.m.

•**SOCIAL NETWORKING** The Wadleigh Memorial Library (49 Nashua St., Milford, 249-0645, wadleighlibrary.org) will have a class on facebook, twitter, and linkedin on Fri., Dec. 20, from 10 to noon. Free.

•**TRICKS OF LINKEDIN** The Wadleigh Memorial Library (49 Nashua St., Milford, 249-0645, wadleighlibrary.org) will have a class on Linkedin on Mon., Dec. 30, from 10 to noon.

•**MEDIUM WITH A MESSAGE** Matthew Fraser, a medium, will be at the Radisson Hotel (700 Elm St., Manchester, 401-573-1360, meetmattfraser.com) to have a messages from heaven event on Sun., Jan 5, from 4 to 6 p.m. Tickets are $35.

•**PHOTOGRAPHY BASICS WORKSHOP** The Nashua Camera Club will have a photography basics workshop on Tuesday, Jan. 7, at 7:30 p.m. at the Nashua Presbyterian Church (1010 West Hollis St., Nashua, carla.gannon@gmail.com, nashuacameraclubnh.org). Bring your camera and manual. Non-members are welcome to attend.

•**CIVIL WAR POETRY** The Amherst Town Library (14 Main St., Amherst, 673-2288, amherstlibrary.org) will host Dr. Keith Williams on Thurs., Jan. 9, at 7 p.m. to discuss the poetry of Whitman, Melville and Dickinson. Registration is required.

•**TEA SNIFFING CONTEST** The Hooksett Library (31 Mt. St. Mary's Way, Hooksett, 485-6092, hooksettlibrary.org) will have tea sniffing contest on Thurs., Jan. 9, at 6:30 p.m. Regisitration is required.

•**BASICS OF E-READERS** The Pelham Public Library (24 Village Green, Pelham, 635-7581, pelhampubliclibrary.org) will have two e-reader basics courses on Fri., Jan. 10, at 10 a.m. and again on Tues., Jan. 14, at 6 p.m. Bringing an e-reader is recommended. Register as space is limited. Must have a Pelham library card.

Nature

Animals/insects

• **WINTER HAWKS AND OWLS** Amoskeag Fishways Learning Center (PO Box 330, Manchester, 626-3474, amoskeagfishways.org) will present a family program about winter hawks and owls on Dec. 20, from 7 to 8 p.m. Registration is required by phone with a payment of $5 per family.

•**ACTIVE WINTER ANIMALS** The Amoskeag Fishways Learning Center (4 Fletcher St., Manchester, 626-3474, amoskeagfishways.org) will have a preschool program about animals in winter Jan. 9, from 9:30 to 11 or 12:30 to 2 p.m. $8 per family, regisitration required.

•**UNDERSTANDING BOBCATS** The Nature Cafe at Massabesic (26 Deerneck Road, Auburn, 668-2045, nhaudubon.org) will have talk about bobcats on Fri., Jan. 10, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Following the presentation will be desserts and coffee, tea and hot chocolate. Cost is $5 per person.

Birds

•**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT** The Nashaway Chapter of the New Hampshire Audubon Society will have a bird count on Sat., Dec. 28. (84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, 224-9909, nhaududbon.org/locations/chapters/nashaway). Contact Richard Bielawski at 429-2537 to attend. Visit nhaudubon.org/birding/christmas-bird-count.

Outdoors

•**CLIMATE ADAPTATION** McConnell Center (61 Locust St., Dover, steincr@mit.edu, mit.edu) will host a workshop about climate adaptation on Thurs., Dec. 19, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Dinner provided; workshop is free. Please RSVP in email.

• **BLIND HIKER** The Nashua Public Library (2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4610, nashualibrary.org) will have a talk with Randy Pierce, a blind hiker, on Thurs., Jan 2, at 7 p.m., where Pierce will talk about "Reaching Our Peak Potential."

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IN/OUT

Around the world

Amateur radio takes operators on DXpeditions



Nashua Area Radio Club at its field day in 2012. Courtesy photo.

By Kaitlin Joseph
kjoseph@hippopress.com

Ed Deichler has loved radio for as long as he can remember and has been tinkering with his own equipment in the comfort of his home for years.

"Amateur radio operators contact people from other lands," said Deichler, president of the Nashua Area Radio Club. "We talk around the world."

The Nashua Area Radio Club operates under the American Radio Relay League. In 2014, the league will celebrate its 100th anniversary at the Hartford, Conn., headquarters.

"The FCC no longer requires people to need to know morse code [to get a license]," Deichler said. "It helped out the hobby a lot. A lot of people didn't bother with it, and now there's a lot more enthusiasm."

Deichler operates his equipment in his home through the use of a computer that allows him to use a digital mode. He can talk, use video and type to others all around the world. He uses the radio system he built himself mostly on weekends and loves to tinker with his antennas.

"It's one area where you can try something and get it to work and tune it," Deichler said. According to him, it's almost impossible to build systems yourself today.

Most recently, Deichler was able to communicate with amateur radio operators in some islands around the Indian Ocean. Operators often take part in DXpeditions, where they will travel to a remote location and have other operators try to find them.

"It's amazing what we have been able to do," Deichler said of the DXpeditions. "People really get a kick out of it."

Deichler has even traveled to the island of Grenada.

But it's not all fun and games.

"Above all, amateur radio exists because it performs as a backup for emergencies," Deichler said.

Deichler spoke of amatuer radio operators who helped out emergency officials in the times of Hurricane Katrina and the floods in Colorado.

"It was used to see if relatives were OK," Deichler said. "It was the only communication at one point."

Each year there is a National Ham Convention in May in Dayton, Ohio, that thousands of amatuer, or ham, radioists attend. Locally, there is one in Deerfield that Deichler attends. Those in the hobby can bring their equipment to show off or sell. They can also buy or look at new models coming out.

There are five classes of licenses: novice, technical, general, advanced and extra. With each license class comes an upgrading of privileges and a specific call number. Deichler's call number is K2TE.

Any licensed amateur radio operator is welcome to join the club. Those interested can fill out a membership form online and mail it in, along with the annual fee of $20. New members will receive a badge and a copy of the monthly newsletter.

At the radio club's monthly meetings, there is a presentation with a speaker about different topics related to the hobby. They may talk about emergency requirements, restoring antique systems or DXpeditions.

Nashua's Area Radio Club has monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. The club meets at the First Church of Nashua.

Nashua Area Radio Club monthly meeting
When: Tuesday, Jan. 7
Where: First Church of Nashua, 1 Concord St., Nashua
Time: 7 p.m.
Visit: n1fd.org

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FOOD
Yuletide feasting
Where to go for Christmas eats

By Emelia Attridge
food@hippopress.com



Not all restaurants close their doors on Christmas. The mall's open on Christmas Eve, and so are these restaurants. Some are closing a little earlier, and some are staying open just as late. Check out these special menus and Christmas Day feasts.

Christmas Eve dinners

• **Bedford Village Inn** (2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001, bedfordvillageinn.com) will be serving a four-course prix fixe dinner on Christmas Eve. Seatings are from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Dinner costs $75 for adults, $29.95 for children ages 10 and under (plus tax and gratuity), and includes entree choices like Christmas turkey, grilled Dubreton pork chops, rib-eye steak, salmon, halibut, duck breast, followed by a dessert buffet in the Great Hall. Reservations required.

• **Copper Door** (15 Leavy Dr., Bedford, 488-2677, copperdoorrestaurant.com) is open from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. with Christmas Eve specials including caramelized scallops with butternut squash and pumpkin ravioli, arugula, pecan butter sauce and shaved parmesan ($27), pan-roasted duck with mushroom risotto, roasted cipollini onions, baby spinach and cherry gastrique ($26) and pinot noir braised short rib with duck fat roasted fingerling potatoes, charred baby carrots, espresso onion straws and a demi glaze ($29). Reservations recommended.

• **Epoch Restaurant & Bar at The Exeter Inn** (2 Pine St., Exeter, 778-3762, epochrestaurant.com) will be serving dinner on Christmas Eve from 4 to 8 p.m. The menu includes appetizers like short rib ravioli with Taleggio cheese, Broccolini and bone marrow butter, lobster citrus salad, Hudson Valley foie gras duo and braised oxtail vol au vant and entrée choices like rack of lamb, winter bouillabaisse, grilled swordfish and tea smoked duck breast. Dessert includes eggnog panna cotta with cinnamon spiced crème Anglaise, blueberries and white chocolate stix, chocolate torte and spiced ginger bread pudding with whisky caramel sauce. Reservations required.

• **Giorgio's Ristorante & Bar** (524 Nashua St., Milford, 673-3939, giorgios.com) is serving a Christmas Eve Feast buffet in its Milford location. Reservations are required, and can be placed between 5 and 8 p.m. The buffet costs $29.99 for adults, $9.99 for kids under 12, free for kids under 4.

• **Granite Restaurant & Bar** (96 Pleasant St., Concord, 227-9000, graniterestaurant.com) serving specials in addition to its regular dinner menu on Christmas Eve from 5 to 9 p.m. Specials include roasted quail with chestnuts and dried fruit, bread pudding, veal osso bucco, roasted halibut and a poached pear salad.

• **Zampa** (8 Exeter Road, Epping, 679-8772, zampa.com) is serving a Holiday Classic Dinner on Christmas Eve, from 5 to 9 p.m. The special holiday menu includes oysters Rockefeller, roasted rack of lamb, lobster scallop Newberg, shrimp cocktail and prime rib. Reservations required.

Other restaurants open for Christmas Eve with regular menus:

• **The Airport Diner** (2280 Brown Ave., Manchester, 623-5040, thecman.com) open from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. serving breakfast, lunch and dinner.

• **Alan's of Boscawen** (133 N. Main St., Boscawen, 753-6631, alansofboscawen.com) serving from its regular menu until 8 p.m.

• **Belmont Hall & Restaurant** (718 Grove St., Manchester, 625-8540, belmonthall.net) serving from its regular menu from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• **The Black Forest Café** (212 Route 101, Amherst, 672-0500, theblackforestcafe.com) open for seating in the dining room until 4 p.m.

• **Buckley's Great Steaks** (438 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 424-0995, buckleysgreatsteaks.com) serving dinner from its regular menu in the dining room by reservation only, and on a "first come, first serve" basis in the tavern from 4 to 8 p.m.

• **Chez Vachon** (136 Kelley St., Manchester, 625-9660, chezvachon.com) open during its regular hours from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• **Common Man Restaurants** (25 Water St., Concord, and 304 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 228-3463, thecman.com) open for lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

• **Country Tavern** (452 Amherst St., Nashua, 889-5871, countrytavern.org) open for seatings. Reservations can be made up through 7 p.m.

• **Cucina Toscana** (427 Amherst St., Nashua, 821-7356, cucinatoscananashua.com) closes at 10 p.m.

• **Firefly American Bistro & Bar** (22 Concord St., Manchester, 935-9740, fireflynh.com) closes at 4 p.m.

• **Fratello's Italian Grille** (155 Dow St., Manchester, 624-2022, fratellos.com) serving from its regular menu on Christmas Eve until 8 p.m.

• **Hanover Street Chophouse** (149 Hanover St., Manchester, 644-2467, hanoverstreetchophouse.com) serving from its regular menu with specials from noon to 6 p.m. Reservations required.

• **Harold Square** (226 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, 432-7144, harold-square.com) open regular hours on until 3 p.m., with catering pick-up until 5 p.m.

• **The Homestead Restaurant** (641 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 429-2022, homesteadnh.com) open until 8 p.m.

• **Lakehouse Grille** (281 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-5221, thecman.com) open from 11:30 to 3 p.m. for lunch, and from 5 to 9 p.m. for dinner.

• **Mint Bistro** (1105 Elm St., Manchester, 625-6468, mintbistronh.com) serving from its regular menu and opening for din-

weekly DISH

News from the local food scene

• **Best Irish pub in America:** LazyLoafer (lazyloafer.com), a travel and leisure website, has been tallying votes for the title of Best Irish Pub in America. Readers are asked to vote for the best Irish pubs in each geographic region, and Manchester's Shaskeen Pub & Restaurant (909 Elm St., Manchester, 625-0246, shaskeenpub.com) took the title for best Irish pub in the Northeast after a tiebreaker with McCoy's Pub in Stratford, Conn. The Shaskeen will be entered to win the title of Best Irish Pub in the United States in 2014.

• **Kickstart some wine:** Hermit Woods Winery has outgrown its current location in Sanbornton and will be moving to Main Street in Meredith. The winery reached out to supporters last week on Kickstarter to help raise funds for the final touches in the new location. The winery opened three years ago in co-owner Bob Manley's home. "We cannot make another bottle in our small basement, and our tasting room is often full to capacity," Manley said in a press release. During the past six months, Hermit Woods Winery has been able to start building the new tasting room and remodel the space in downtown Meredith. The owners of the winery hope to raise $28,000 through the crowd-funding website by Friday, Jan. 10. Visit hermitwoods.com.

• **Partridge in a chocolate pear tree:** Dancing Lion Chocolate (917 Elm St., Manchester, 625-4043, dancinglion.us) will be open every day until Christmas Eve, with specials each day to count down to Christmas. On Thursday, Dec. 19, the shop stays open until 8:30 p.m. with a special evening menu (house-made baguettes with chocolate, olive oil, blood orange and local honey); Friday, Dec. 20, chocolatiers will sign gift boxes; Saturday, Dec. 21, customers who spend over $50 will receive an edible ornament with a surprise inside; Sunday, Dec. 22, there's free hot chocolate; Monday, Dec. 23, shopping specials on Last-Minute Monday; and on Tuesday, Dec. 24, 10 percent of purchases benefit Families in Transition.

• **More mac and cheese, please:** The Granite State Dairy Promotion is bringing back the statewide Macaroni and Cheese Bake Off for another year. Those interested in competing with their own mac and cheese recipe can register online at nhdairypromo.org. Those who register by Friday, Jan. 3, will receive free cheese from Cabot as an early registration bonus. There is a $10 entry fee to register. The 2014 NH Macaroni and Cheese Bake Off is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 18, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Grappone Conference Center in

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ner at 4 p.m. No reservations after 8 p.m.

• **MT's Local Kitchen & Wine Bar** (212 Main St., Nashua, 595-9334, mtslocal.com) serving lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and dinner from 4 and 8 p.m.

• **O Steaks and Seafood** (11 S. Main St., Concord, 856-7925, magicfoodsrestaurantgroup.com) serving from its regular menu. Last seating is at 8 p.m.

• **Old Europe** (76 N. Main St., Concord, 856-7181, oldeuropenh.com) serving from its regular menu. Lunch starts at 11:30 a.m., and dinner hours will end earlier than regular hours. Call ahead.

• **Piccola Italia** (815 Elm St., Manchester, 606-5100, piccolaitalianh.com) serving dinner from its regular menu from 4 to 10 p.m.

• **Red Blazer** (72 Manchester St., Concord, 224-4101, theredblazer.com) serving from its regular menu for lunch, and a limited menu for dinner until 8 p.m.

• **Red Sauce Ristorante** (33 S. Commercial St., Manchester, 232-3487, redsauceristorante.com) serving from its regular menu and closing at 8 p.m.

• **Republic Cafe** (1069 Elm St., Manchester, 666-3723, republiccafe.com) serving from its regular menu until 4 p.m.

• **Restaurant Tek-Nique** (170 Route 101, Bedford, 488-5629, restaurantteknique.com) serving from its regular menu and open regular hours from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

• **River Road Tavern** (193 S. River Road, Bedford, 206-5837, riverroadtavern.com) open on Christmas Eve.

• **Surf** (207 Main St., Nashua, 595-9293, surfseafood.com) reservations taken up until 7 p.m., and seating will be up until 8 p.m. The restaurant will be serving from its regular menu.

• **Tilt'n Diner** (61 Laconia Road, Tilton, 286-2204, thecman.com) open from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. on serving breakfast and lunch.

• **Tuscan Kitchen** (67 Main St., Salem, 952-4875, tuscanbrands.com) serving from its regular menu until 8 p.m.

• **Villa Banca** (194 Main St., Nashua, 598-0500, villabanca.com) serving from its traditional dinner menu with holiday specials during regular hours, until 9 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

• **The Yard** (1211 S. Mammoth Road, Manchester, 623-3545, theyardrestaurant.com) open from 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Feasting on Christmas Day

• **Lakehouse Grille** (281 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-5221, thecman.com) Serving a Grand Christmas Feast on Christmas Day. The menu includes starters like corn and lobster chowder with tarragon cream, mixed green salad with pears, blue cheese, walnuts and Champagne vinaigrette. Entrées include apple roasted chicken breast with sweet onion pumpkin seed relish, herb-seared salmon with lemon butter sauce, herb-crusted and slow-roasted sirloin from the carver with roasted garlic au jus and horseradish cream, plus assorted cakes for dessert. The Christmas Feast costs $34.95 for adults and $15.95 for children ages 12 and under (plus tax and gratuity). Reservations required.



• **Red Arrow Diner** (61 Lowell St., Manchester, 626-1118; 63 Union Square, Milford, 249-9222, redarrowdiner.com) stay open 24 hours a day year round, including Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The diner will be serving from its regular menu along with some specials on Christmas Day.

• **River Road Tavern** (193 S. River Road, Bedford, 206-5837, riverroadtavern.com) will be open on Christmas Day from 4 to 11 p.m. serving Christmas specials.

• **Stonehurst Manor** (3351 White Mountain Hwy., North Conway, 356-3113, stonehurstmanor.com) Serving dinner from 4 to 8 p.m. The menu includes bacon-wrapped scallops, lobster ravioli, maple-brined turkey, seafood cioppino, lamb with fresh rosemary, cranberry-glazed duckling, veal oscar and sweet potato gnocchi with winter vegetables. There is also a children's menu for kids ages 12 and under.

• **Wentworth by the Sea** (588 Wentworth Road, New Castle, 422-7322, wentworth.com) Choose either a Christmas dinner at Salt Kitchen & Bar, from 1 to 10 p.m., with entrees like grilled dry aged beef tenderloin served with potato-porcini gratin and truffle snow, or traditioanl Christmas turkey, or cedar planked black bass with passion fruit butter sauce (cost $44.95 for adults, $16.95 for children under 12, excludes tax and gratuity). Or a Festive Christmas Brunch buffet service on Christmas Day, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Wentworth Ballroom (cost $44.95 for adults, $19.95 for children under 12, excludes tax and gratuity). The brunch buffet features a menu with salad buffet, fresh seasonal fruits, imported and domestic cheeses, farm fresh egg and omelet station, breakfast pastries, stuffed French toast with Vermont maple syrup, Italian antipasto, carving station and more.

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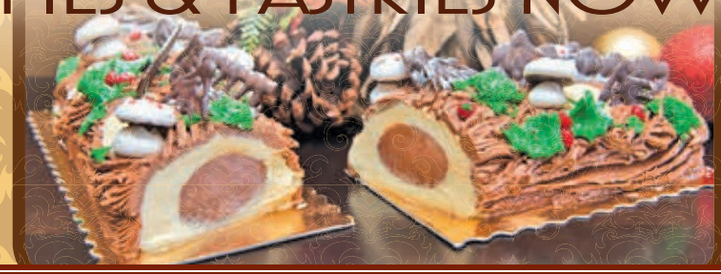
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Christmas dinners to go

Order up a Yule log or holiday roast

By Emelia Attridge
food@hippopress.com



Local bakeries, butchers and caterers have your Christmas dinners all ready to-go. Find your Christmas ham, side dishes, dessert, Yule logs and cookies (and cupcakes) for Santa.

• **Alpine Grove** (19 S. Depot Road, Hollis, 882-9051, alpinegrove.com) Order a 22-pound turkey with stuffing, gravy and cranberry sauce ($149), prime rib ($199) or a roasted Virginia ham to go ($159). All meals include mashed potatoes, carrots, squash, rolls, butter and pie.

• **The Black Forest Café** (212 Route 101, Amherst, 672-0500, theblackforestcafe.com) The list of holiday treats includes pies like apple, Dutch apple, cranberry apple and chocolate nut ($18 each), salted caramel pecan tart ($27) and cranberry walnut crostata (large costs $24, medium costs $18). Then there's chocolate mousse cake, pumpkin ginger cake, old fashioned coconut cake, carrot cake and gluten-free white chocolate Frangelico torte (small cake costs $23, large cake costs $35). Order a dozen cookies, like from shortbread trees and cranberry pistachio biscotti to gingerbread kid cookies (cost $13.95 for one dozen, or $27.90 for two dozen assortment with three of each cookie). There are also Russian tea cakes, peanut butter balls and holiday cookie baskets. For orders to be picked up on Sunday, Dec. 22, through Tuesday, Dec. 24, orders must be placed by Friday, Dec. 20. Orders for savory food from the catering menu are also available. Orders must be placed by Sunday, Dec. 29, for pick-up on New Year's Eve.

• **The Bakeshop on Kelley Street** (171 Kelley St., Manchester, 624-3500, thebakeshoponkelleystreet.weebly.com) Place orders by Friday, Dec. 20, for holiday cakes, pies, Yule logs, cookie Christmas trees (layers of star shaped green cookies made to look like one Christmas tree), rolls and pastry trays (with cream puffs, éclairs, cannolis, lemon squares and chocolate dipped strawberries). Pick-up is available on Monday, Dec. 23, from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Christmas Eve from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

• **Bread & Chocolate** (29 S. Main St., Concord, 228-3330) Order a Yule log, Christmas stollen or Christmas cookies by Friday, Dec. 20. Pick-up is available up through Christmas Eve, from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

• **Buckwheat's Gluten Free** (14 Celina Ave., Unit 15, Nashua, 836-4136, buckwheatsglutenfree.com) Order gluten-free Christmas cookies and pie crusts. The Nashua outlet is open on Saturdays only, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., but other businesses like A Market (125 Loring St., Manchester), Natural Choice Market (270 Londonderry Turnpike, Hooksett) and Earthward Natural Foods (42 Route 101, Amherst) all offer Buckwheat's product.

• **Butter's Fine Food & Wine** (249 Sheep Davis Road, Concord, 225-5995, buttersfinefood.com) Order platters (either customized or one of Butter's suggested platters), side dishes, take-and-bake dishes and lasagna by Saturday, Dec. 21. Pick-up is available up through Christmas Eve, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Butter's also carries Christmas cakes from Italy, olive oils and other foodie stocking stuffers.

• **Carter Hill Orchard** (73 Carter Hill Road, Concord, 225-2625, carterhillapples.com) The bakery closes on Saturday, Dec. 21, at noon. Orders for pies (like apple, pumpkin, pecan or whoopie pies) should be placed by Thursday, Dec. 19.

• **Chez Vachon** (136 Kelley St., Manchester, 625-9660, chezvachon.com) Order meals to-go from the regular menu. Depending on the party size, orders should be placed in plenty of advance time for pick-up on Monday, Dec. 23.

• **Concord Community Co-op** (24 S. Main St., Concord, 225-6840, concordfoodcoop.coop) Special orders can be placed with the Celery Stick Café by Saturday, Dec. 21, for pick-up on Christmas Eve. The co-op will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 24, and platters include antipasti, seafood, cheeses, all natural deli trays, plus hors d'oeuvres like crab cakes, stuffed mushrooms, teriyaki skewers, Asian tofu fritters and pan seared chickpea cutlets with vegan chipotle remoulade sauce. There's also desserts like chocolate cakes, gingerbread cake, chocolate tart, bûche de Noël, eggnog cheesecake and a holiday cookie platter.

• **Crosby Bakery** (51 E. Pearl St., Nashua, 882-1851, crosbysbakery.com) The deadline for Christmas orders is on Saturday, Dec. 21. Crosby's will be closed on Sunday, Dec. 22, and open on Monday, Dec. 23, from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Tuesday, Dec. 24, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. for pick-up. Christmas orders include holiday pastry platters (large serves 25 costs $29, small serves 12 costs $14.50), holiday cookie platters (seven dozen costs $35, small three-and-a-half dozen costs $17.50), salad roll platters with stuffed rolls of chicken, tuna, egg and ham salad (serves 12 cost $30), plus dinner rolls, sugar cookies, butter rum cookies, New England fruit cake, gingerbread Santas, éclairs and 18 pie varieties like apple, apricot, blueberry and cherry pies to pecan, mince, chocolate cream, custard, meat pies, pumpkin pie and sugar-free pies.

• **Crust & Crumb** (126 N. Main St., Concord, thecrustandcrumb.com) Place orders by Friday, Dec. 20, for pick-up on Tuesday, Dec. 24. Options include linzertortes with raspberry preserve ($20); fruit tarts, vanilla bean cheesecake and Neopolitan mousse cake (each $25); flourless chocolate torte, maple bourbon pecan pie and fruit cake (each $20); chocolate cream pie, apple crumble pie and forest berry pie (each $16); squash rolls and spiced fruit bread ($5.50); sticky buns (four for $12); Pulla, sweet braided bread with cardamom ($6.50); blueberry scones ($10 per half dozen); ham and cheddar quiche or butternut and swiss quiche (each $20); and pork pie ($22).

• **Finesse Pastries** (968 Elm St., Manchester, 232-6592, finessepastries.com) Pies and cakes (like apple, blueberry, pecan, chocolate creme pie and cheesecakes), chocolate bûche de Noël and praline bûche de Noël (small costs $22.95 or large costs $28.95), pastry platter with éclairs, cream puffs, swans and Parisbrests or cookie platter with cookies and macarons (each serves 25, costs $50), "first come, first served."

• **German John's Bakery** (5 W. Main St., Hillsborough, 464-5079, germanjohnsbakery.net) Call to reserve any Christmas treats like stollen, lebkuchen, pfeffernusse or sweet breads in the shape of candy canes by Saturday, Dec. 21. German John's Bakery will be open from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

• **Great Harvest Bread Co.** (4A Sunapee St., Nashua, 881-4422, greatharvestnashua.com) Place orders for dinner rolls, honey whole wheat or farmhouse white loaves or dessert breads like cinnamon chip or pumpkin chocolate chip.

• **Jerome's Deli** (393 Bridge St., Manchester, 623-5388, and 44 Nashua Road, Londonderry, 425-1820, jeromesdeli.com) Special orders and catering orders for the holidays must be placed by Saturday, Dec. 21, for pick-up on Tuesday, Dec. 24. Pick-up is available between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Order a pan of stuffed shells, barbecue, soups, bread pudding, pumpkin rolls, cheesecake or anything from the regular menu and special orders, too. There's also a Christmas Morning menu that includes breakfast in bed with a crusty loaf filled with choice of meat, cheese and egg ($19.95), a pan of 12 sticky buns ($23.95), pecan praline French toast ($25.95) and fresh fruit salad by the quart, pint or half-pan.

• **Hart's Turkey Farm** (233 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-6212, hartsturkeyfarm.com) Orders should be placed before noon on Sunday, Dec. 22, for Christmas turkeys. Pick-up on Tuesday, Dec. 24, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. An order form is available online, and includes 10-pound to 26-pound turkeys, quarts of stuffing and gravy, cranberry sauce, potatoes, squash, beans, pies, cornbread, cakes, sweetbreads and apple crisp.

• **Harold Square** (226 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, 432-7144, haroldsquare.com) Place orders for catering pick-up from the regular catering menu (including prime rib dinners and roast beef dinners) by Thursday, Dec. 19. Orders can be picked up until 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

• **Just Like Mom's Pastries** (353 Riverdale Road, Weare, 529-6667, justlikemomspastries.com) Order desserts by Saturday, Dec. 21, for pick-up. Just Like Mom's Pastries will be open on Monday, Dec. 23, from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Christmas Eve from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. The holiday dessert menu includes Seven Swans A Swimmin' (an éclair ring with seven cream-filled swans in the middle, cost $28); traditional Yule log ($25); tiramisu torte, Merry Mint mousse cake (each six-inch $20, or eight-inch $28); black and white raspberry pie ($15.99); drunken cannoli cake (vanilla cake brushed with rum and filled with cannoli filling, finished with amaretto buttercream, almonds, chocolate chips and topped with

mini cannoli, each six-inch cake costs $21, or eight-inch $29). There's also pork pies, quiche, sticky buns, coffee cakes, pastry platters and dinner rolls.

• **"Lee's Cake & Pastry** (79 Manchester St., Manchester, 206-5925, facebook.com/leescakepastry) Order special holiday cakes in black forest, vanilla mocha, raspberry mousse, pumpkin maple, tiramisu or Boston cream, a Christmas Yule log, cheesecakes, tarts and pastries by Saturday, Dec. 21, and pick-up Christmas Eve from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

• **Kay's Bakery** (443 Lake Ave., Manchester, 625-1132) The deadline for Christmas orders is Friday, Dec. 20, available for pick-up through Christmas Eve from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Includes Greek pastries, soups, pitas, pork pies and homemade pies.

• **The Meat House** (124 Route 101, Amherst, 598-6328; 254 Wallace Road, Bedford, 472-5444; 920 Central Ave., Dover, 834-6328; 16 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, 227-5261; 2222 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, 422-6328; 28 Portsmouth Ave., Stratham, 418-6557; themeathouse.com) Pick-up Christmas roasts, prime rib, sirloin, pork roasts, hams and other meats for Christmas dinner up through Christmas Eve. Each location will be closing at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 24.

• **Michelle's Gourmet Pastries & Deli** (819 Union St., Manchester, 647-7150, michellespatries.com) Place an order for a mini pastry platter with linzer bars, brownies, cannolis, éclairs, peanut butter dream bars, petit fours, chocolate-dipped strawberries, German chocolate bars and holiday cookies (no substitutions, cost varies from $15.99 to $37.99), cookie platters ($15.99 for two-and-a-half dozen cookies, $29 for five dozen cookies), a Yule log ($29) or mini pastries a la carte, including fruit tarts, cannolis, éclairs and petit fours. The regular menu is also available. Deadline for Christmas orders is on Thursday, Dec. 19, with pick-up available on Monday, Dec. 23, and Tuesday, Dec. 24, from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days.

• **Queen City Cupcakes** (790 Elm St., Manchester, 624-4999, qccupcakes.com) Order cupcakes by Saturday, Dec. 21, for pick-up on Tuesday, Dec. 24, from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The holiday menu includes cupcake flavors like chocolate covered cherry, chocolate squared, Christmas sugar cookie, cranberry lemon, gingerbread eggnog, Guinness cupcake, hot cocoa, peanut butter, red velvet, snowball cupcake, vanilla bean and white peppermint. There's also a gluten-free cupcake option with chocolate cake base with choice of frosting.

• **Red Arrow Diner** (61 Lowell St., Manchester, 626-1118; 63 Union Square, Milford, 249-9222, redarrowdiner.com) Place orders for holiday pies within at least 48 hours from desired pick-up time. Pies cost $14.99 each, and include varieties like chocolate cream, coconut cream, banana cream, banana nut cream, custard pie, lemon cream, pork pie, pecan pie, lemon meringue, pumpkin cream, brownie cream, blueberry, signature Hannah pie, Moe's apple pie, strawberry rhubarb and cherry. Salmon pies cost $16.99 each. Double layer whole cakes are also available for order (cost $19.99 each), including chocolate, carrot, black forest, almond raspberry, chocolate raspberry, chocolate peppermint, Funny Bone cake and Yodel cake.

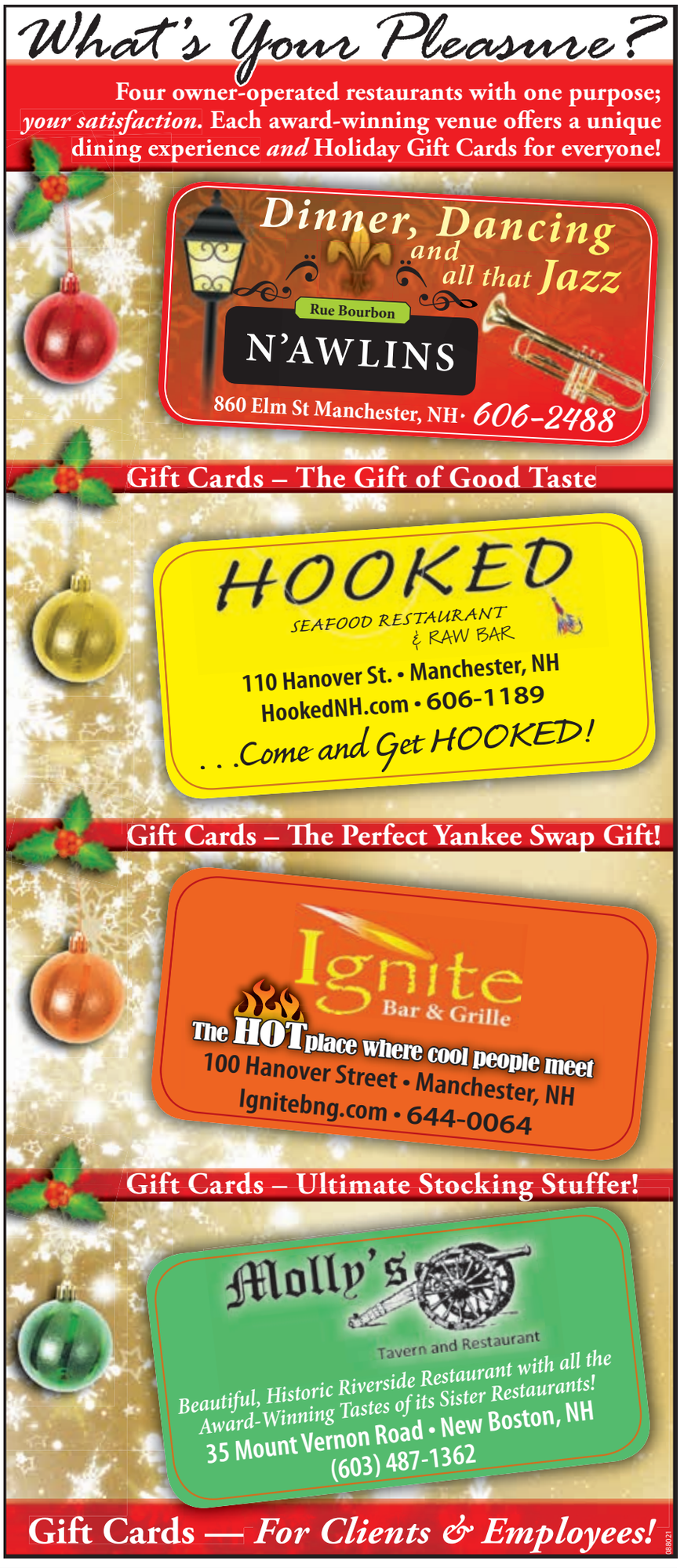
• **Red Blazer** (72 Manchester St., Concord, 224-4101, theredblazer.com) Catering services are available at the Red Blazer, including platters and catering for pick-up. Call for details.

• **Shellie's Neighborhood Butcher Shop** (38 Crystal Ave., Derry, 505-4558, shelliesbutcher.com) Order in advance to make sure roasts and hams are in stock, call in for pork and chicken pies, catering and Mediterranean foods to make sure orders are placed in advance for Christmas. Shellie's Neighborhood Butcher Shop will be open on Monday, Dec. 23, and Tuesday, Dec. 24, from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

• **Triolo's Bakery** (21 Kilton Road, Bedford, 232-3256, triolosbakery.com) Order holiday cakes, gingerbread cookies or decorated shortbread cookies and pastries by Saturday, Dec. 21, and pick-up on Christmas Eve from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

• **Tuscan Market** (63 Main St., Salem, 912-5467, tuscanbrands.com) Order from the catering menu at Tuscan Market for antipasti, pasta dishes (like fusilli alla bolognese, roasted butternut squash cappellacci, lobster ravioli), side dishes, turkey breast, ham, prosciutto wrapped boneless pork and more. The deadline for catering orders is on Friday, Dec. 20, and Tuscan Market will also be open on Christmas Eve from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

• **Washington Street Catering & Café** (88 Washington St., Concord, 228-2000, washingtonstreetcatering.com) Order catering for package dinners (like roasted turkey, with stuffing, mashed potatoes and butternut squash, or maple glazed ham with roasted root vegetables and mashed sweet potatoes, or beef Wellington or rosemary and garlic marinated rack of lamb dinner), or a la carte turkey, beef Wellington, ham or lamb, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, sauteed green beans with slivered almonds, caramelized pearl onions and potato gratin and other holiday meal fixings. Orders should be placed with 48-hour notice.

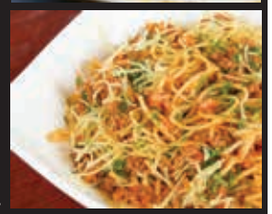


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More cheese, please

How to prepare your platters

By Emelia Attridge
food@hippopress.com


Linda Falcioni stands with the cheese case at Angela's Pasta and Cheese Shop. Emelia Attridge photo.

Linda Falcioni, the cheese buyer at Angela's Pasta and Cheese Shop in Manchester, and Kristy Ammann, owner and chef of Butter's Fine Food and Wine in Concord, have a few tips for people who want to create the perfect cheese platters for holiday gatherings.

"We tell everybody, when you're putting out a variety, [offer] something hard, something soft and something blue," Ammann said. "Then you kind of hit everybody and please everybody."

Both Falcioni and Ammann said dried fruits work well this time of year on a cheese plate. Include nuts, fresh fruits, dried fruits, crackers and fresh bread.

"Breads are always nice. French baguettes are, I think, delicious, especially with the soft cheeses. You can make homemade crostini," Falcioni said. "I'm a big fan of nuts, whether they be marcona almonds and walnuts, and dried fruits are marvelous especially this time of year. Dried figs and apricots are really a nice balance. They're very complementary."

When it comes to selecting the cheeses, Falcioni said three or four cheeses is a good number to have for variety, but not too much variety.

"Sometimes everyone doesn't get to taste the cheese because there's too much variety," she said. "Everything looks so good, and you want to have a little bit of everything."

She recommended selecting a variety of milks, like goat's milk, or bleu cheese and aged Parmigiano Reggiano as solid standbys.

"It's nice to have a mixture of soft cheeses and firm cheeses just to add visual interest to the platter," Falcioni said. "I know a lot of people are very big on color on a platter."

"There's really no wrong answer," Ammann said. "I tell everybody to eat what you like and drink what you like."

For pairing cheeses with wines, Ammann said that brie goes well with chardonnay and pinot grigio, as well as light reds like pinot noir. Sharp cheddar pairs with stronger wines like cabernet or a crisp sauvignon blanc.

Baked brie is another good option for parties. Butter's makes baked brie with jam and puff pastry available baked and ready to go, or prepared to bake at home.

"The warmer a cheese gets, the more flavor you get out of the cheese," Ammann said. "You're going to get more of that creamy brie taste."

Leaving cheddar out for even 45 minutes at room temperature can help improve the cheese, Ammann said.

Food

Lectures/author events/festivals/fairs

• **GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST** At Discover Portsmouth (10 Middle St., Portsmouth, 436-8433, portsmouthhistory.org) as a part of the city's Vintage Christmas programming. Exhibit runs through Mon., Dec. 23, on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekends from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Call 436-8433.

• **HOLIDAY PARTY FOR NEW HORIZONS** 11th annual holiday bash at Milly's Tavern (500 Commercial St., Manchester, 625-4444, millystavern.com) on Sat., Dec. 21, at 7 p.m.; benefits New Horizons. Tickets cost $10 in advance, $15 at the door. Includes live music and silent auction. Clothing or food donations will be collected.

• **NEW YEARS EVE SAMPLING** On Sat., Dec. 28, from 1 to 5 p.m. at The Fresh Market (79 S. River Road, Bedford, 626-3420, thefreshmarket.com), includes party platters, appetizers, deli and produce samples.

Chef events/special meals

• **DICKENS OF A CHRISTMAS** Dinner theater show with three-course meal at The Old Salt Restaurant (490 Lafayette Road, Hampton) on Thursday, Dec. 19. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the show starts at 6:30 p.m. Cost $39.

• **CONCORD FOOD CO-OP BRUNCH** The Co-op's Celery Stick Café (24 S. Main St., Concord, 410-3099, concordfoodcoop.coop) offers a brunch buffet every Sun., 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Build-your-own omelet station.

• **CELIAC & GLUTEN INTOLERANCE SUPPORT GROUP** Meets monthly from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Merrimack Public Library (470 Daniel Webster Highway, Merrimack, merrimack.lib.nh.us) Includes discussion, demonstration and sample. See royaltemptations.com/blog.

New Years Eve Dinners

• **THE GREAT GATSBY** Dinner on Tues., Dec. 31, at Stages at One Washington (1 Washington St., Suite 325, Dover, 842-4077, stages-dining.com).

• **NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER** Tues., Dec. 31, at Bedford Village Inn (2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001, bedfordvillageinn.com). Cost $75

Sipping tea at the art center

Studio 550 opens new tea café

By Emelia Attridge
food@hippopress.com



Art center found Monica Leap introduces tea to Studio 550. Emelia Attridge photo.

Colorful jars of loose leaf rooibos, chai and oolong line the shelves at Studio 550 — a fittingly artistic display for the new tea shop and café at the downtown Manchester community art center.

"It was actually part of the original plan," founder Monica Leap said.

Studio 550 opened last December and offers classes for all ages in various artistic mediums. The center hosts African dance, Tai Chi classes, book and paper arts classes, stained glass, drawing, wheel throwing, children's art classes and family workshops and even theatre performances. Now, a tea room has been added to the heart of the community center.

"Food is an art, too," Leap said. "It's also the idea that a kitchen tends to be the center of the home, and the idea that the tea shop or the café would be the center of the studio."

The café is located in the main entryway and lobby area of the center across from the seating area, with art adorning the walls and shelves all around, giving the feeling of a cozy living room.

"It's a community art center, and what I tend to say is that it's not a community art center unless people are using it," Leap said. "It just needs to be a comfortable, welcoming space that's nurturing where people can come and not be afraid to do whatever they want, because art can be a very scary thing."

Many have already come to call the art center a second home, Leap said. Students in the various classes, from dancing to pottery, can order tea before or after their class, or come in just for the café.

"Having that tea shop, or the kitchen, or the center of the home is kind of of adding to the effect of the studio being people's home away from home, or their second home," Leap said.

The teas are sourced from MEM Tea Imports, located in Watertown, Mass., and A&E Custom Coffee Roastery in Amherst. Sweets and pastries are purchased from the Manchester School of Technology in support of its culinary arts and pastry program.

"What we're trying to do with the tea shop also is to have cups and mugs by a lot of different artists so you actually get a whole variety. You actually get a different experience every time you come here," Leap said. "We also do a lot of pottery here — obviously that's what people know the studio as — the reason why I personally like pottery is because it's art that becomes part of your daily life. It's just something that you get to interact with more."

Guests can purchase tea to drink, order it to-go or purchase tea to take home. Leap said that there's also a Mug Club program, where guests can have their own handmade mug to keep at the shop, but there's a challenge. To join the Mug Club, customers need to try a cup of each of the teas on the menu or purchase at least an ounce of each within six months.

All the teas are loose leaf and brewed to order, since some certain teas need to steep for a certain amount of time.

"They're all so different. I want something between 20 and 30 [teas]," Leap said. "Everybody has a different flavor and everybody has a different mood, because you know, you have to have the right tea for the right mood. There are some that are really roasted, and some that are smokey, and some that are light and fruity."

The menu includes black teas, like English Breakfast (Assam), Pu-Erh and organic Earl Grey, green teas (including Moroccan Mint and Jasmine Yin Hao), rooibos, chamomile, a dark Oolong Wuyi, Mate and Chai varieties.

"It's giving people the chance to try something new," Leap said. "There's definitely an education factor to it."

Tea at Studio 550 Art Center

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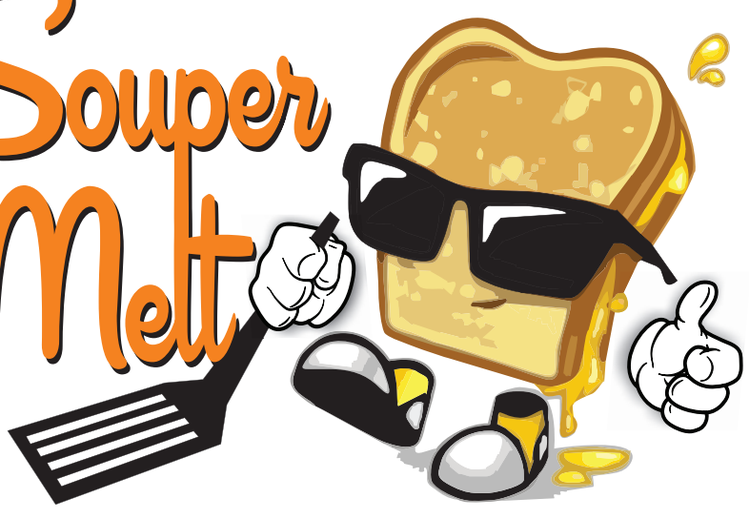
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IN THE KITCHEN WITH SERGIO METES



Sergio Metes is the chef and owner of Unums Restaurant (47 E. Pearl St., Nashua, 821-6500, unums.com). He received his bachelor's degree at Johnson & Wales University in Miami. The four years he was in school, Metes interned in a Miami restaurant and was mentored by the owner. There, he learned all the aspects of the restaurant business, from dishwashing to line cook. Growing up, Metes' family lived and worked in Central and South America. He's traveled around quite a bit, from Florida to the west coast. His own culinary inspiration comes from global influence and travel. He's been the chef at Unums for four years and took over in ownership this year. "You want people to have a good time, a good meal, so you want to make it something that's interesting," he said.

What is your must-have kitchen item?

I hadn't really thought about that. It's a draw between the [herbed] garlic butter that we make [and] use for several components, or the infused olive oil that we make that we're able to basically cross-utilise in different foods. That's probably my one thing that's really important to have as far as flavor.

What would you choose for your last meal?

Ceviche, made the Peruvian way.

Favorite restaurant besides your own?

My favorite restaurant is out of the country. It's called Rosa Nautica in Peru. Amazing restaurant right on the cliffs right on the ocean — it's beautiful.

What celebrity would you like to see eating at your restaurant?

George Lopez.

What is the biggest food trend in New Hampshire right now?

It's a toss between farm-to-table and people that have gluten allergies. That's what I notice the most, people wanting farm-to-table things — you know, organic things from within the state, or at least from within the country — which is pretty much what we try to do here as well, as much as possible. Some things unfortunately don't come from the U.S., they're specific from other countries, but most of the things that we get are grown in New Hampshire or California, south Florida, Idaho. Same thing with the meats; biotic-free, GMO-free — as natural as it could be, just as nature intended it to be.

What is your favorite meal to cook at home?

I enjoy cooking lamb, roasting a leg of lamb, lamb chops.

What is your favorite dish on your restaurant's menu?

My favorite dish is a toss between the chicken statler and the seafood cioppino.

— *Emelia Attridge*

Grilled Hearts of Romaine

From the menu at Unums Restaurant.

2 romaine hearts
1 cup sun-dried tomatoes
⅛ cup Kalamata olives
1 cup sugar
1 cup vinegar
1 cup water
½ red onion sliced Julienne
salt and pepper as desired
8 to 10 slices of thick cut applewood smoked bacon or similar (ask butcher for ¼-inch or ½-inch slices)
1 cup brown sugar
¼ cup minced shallots
4 cups chicken stock
1 cup lemon juice
½ cup honey
½ cup vegetable oil or extra virgin olive oil

To make the relish, begin by slicing the sun-dried tomatoes. Chop the olives slightly, then place in a saute pan with the water, sugar, vinegar and onions. Simmer for 20 minutes or until the liquid is almost consumed. Allow to rest for 30 minutes in cooler.

To make the bacon jam, take the bacon and chop into small squares (about ¼-inch in size) while the tomato and olives are simmering. Place the minced shallots in a deep pan with some oil on medium until they begin to sweat. Add the bacon for eight minutes until it begins to crisp. Dain some of the fat and add brown sugar and chicken stock. Reduce mixture until it thickens to the consistency of jam or syrup.

To make the dressing, add lemon juice and honey in a bowl. Whisk oil in last, adding salt and pepper as desired. Set aside.

To grill the romaine hearts, use a grill or oven broiler. Cut the heads of romaine in halves and the ends off. Oil lightly and add salt and pepper lightly. Place on grill or top rack of oven. Allow to char slightly but not burn (about five minutes on the grill, or five to 10 minutes in the oven). Place romaine on a plate, drizzle with lemon dressing, add relish and then the bacon and serve.

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COOKBOOK THROWDOWN

By Amy Diaz



Old-School Comfort Food
by Alex Guarnaschelli (2013, Clarkson Potter)

VS



The Romney Family Table
by Ann Romney (2013, Shadow Mountain)

The goal: To pit two vaguely related cookbooks against each other and arbitrarily declare a champion.

The competitors: Both books focus on comfort food.

Battleground:

CAKE!

The Romney Family Table

The cookbook: Yep, that's Mitt on the cover, sledding with what appears to be one of his many, many grandchildren. The recipes in this book are, according to Ann Romney's introduction, family favorites — a combination of stuff passed down from forebears and recipes added to the family canon by her daughters-in-law. When you see the family photos (including individual portraits of each son with his own wife and kids), you get a sense of the herculean task of feeding the Romney clan (in addition to her five sons, Romney has, according to Wikipedia, 22 grandchildren). The recipes reflect that — each is a crowd-pleaser, the sort of dish that would perfectly fit at the end of the sentence "I'll make my famous": Lasagna Noodle Bake, Haddock with Tomatoes and Feta Cheese, Apricot Coffee Cake, Birdie's Yams.

The recipe: "Peanut Butter Chocolate Cake" with peanut butter frosting and chocolate peanut butter glaze on page 186.

Old-School Comfort Food

The cookbook: Guarnaschelli never ran for president, but she's no stranger to the whole thrill of victory/agony of defeat thing: she came in third on *The Next Iron Chef* in 2011 but came back to win in 2012 (according to Wikipedia). Her cooking shows on the Food Network never exactly caught fire (my favorite, *The Cooking Loft*, doesn't even show up in reruns) but she's become a formidable judge on *Chopped*. Here, she focuses on unfussy deliciousness: Roasted Squash Soup with Popcorn, Beef Meatballs and Sauce with Rigatoni, Broiled Bluefish with Corn and Bacon, Raspberry Doughnuts with Vanilla Dipping Sauce and Banana Betty.

The recipe: "Yellow Cake with Chocolate Frosting and a Caramel Top" on page 219.

The result: Both of these recipes feature cakes in three parts: cake, frosting, topping. In both cases, what sounds difficult (the chocolate glaze for Romney's cake or the candy topping for Guarnaschelli's) was actually fairly easy to execute. As Guarnaschelli warns, the caramel topping (poured over when hot, naturally) semi-melts the cake, creating an odd, lumpy-looking dessert. Romney's cake is food-magazine beautiful. Both were excellent on the first day, but Romney's started to dry out a bit (especially where cake met frosting) on subsequent days — a problem easily solved with the application of ice cream.

The winner

OLD-SCHOOL COMFORT FOOD

Before you yell "liberal cake-media elitist," let me say that both of these cakes turned out delicious and both are ones I'd make again. Romney's big cookbook with its airy layout and solid instruction (the voice and description really do have that "mom's recipe card" feel) was easy to use. It is exactly the kind of book you'd turn to when looking for a "big plate of something" recipe to feed a crowd. The second-day moistness of Guarnaschelli's cake and the book's chefy tips for handling and purchasing ingredients nosed *Old-School Comfort Food* just a bit ahead.

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Weekly Dish

Continued from page 52

Concord. Visit nhdairypromo.org.

• **Last-minute gifts:** Just for last-minute gift shoppers, Butter's Fine Food and Wine (249 Sheep Davis Road, Concord, 225-5995, buttersfinefood.com) will be holding a special open house shopping day on Saturday, Dec. 21. The special event will include various food vendors for last-minute gift ideas. Butter's Fine Food and Wine is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• **Give a little more:** Common Man Restaurants are currently selling coupon books as gifts that give back. The coupon books are only available for the holidays, and each book includes a coupon for each month of 2014 (like buy one entrée, get one half off in January, and a free appetizer with the purchase of two entrées in March). The coupon books cost $10, and sale proceeds benefit the New Hampshire Food Bank. See thecman.com.

• **Auld Lang Syne dines:** Restaurants all over southern New Hampshire are planning to ring in the new year with special dinners and staying open to celebrate with good eats. For special buffet service and entertainment, check out Alan's of Boscawen (133 N. Main St., Boscawen, 753-6631, alansofboscawen.com) and The Yard (1211 S. Mammoth Road, Manchester, 623-3545, theyardrestaurant.com). It's Margaritaville at Alpine Grove (19 S. Depot Road, Hollis, 882-9051, alpinegrove.com), with a buffet, costumes (encouraged, but not mandatory), midnight toast and DJ. In downtown Concord, Old Europe (76 N. Main St., Concord, 856-7181, oldeuropenh.com), O Steaks and Seafood (11 S. Main St., Concord, 856-7925, magicfoodsrestaurantgroup.com) and Granite Restaurant & Bar at The Centennial Hotel (96 Pleasant St., Concord, 227-9000, graniterestaurant.com) all plan on serving from special menus. So is MT's Local Kitchen & Wine Bar (212 Main St., Nashua, 595-9334, mtslocal.com). The chefs at Bedford Village Inn (2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001, bedfordvillageinn.com) and Hanover Street Chophouse (149 Hanover St., Manchester, 644-2467, hanoverstreetchophouse.com) are also designing New Year's dinners. Other restaurants, like Surf (207 Main St., Nashua, 595-9293, surfseafood.com), Restaurant Tek-Nique (170 Route 101, Bedford, 488-5629, restaurantteknique.com) and Firefly American Bistro & Bar (22 Concord St., Manchester, 935-9740, fireflynh.com) are planning on staying open for the holiday with regular menu dining. This list only skims the surface of restaurants open for New Year's Eve. Know of other restaurants planning special meals to ring in 2014? Email food@hippopress.com.

plus tax and gratuity. Reservations required.

• **NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH** Tues., Dec. 31, at Giorgio's Ristorante & Bar (524 Nashua St., Milford, 673-3939, and Pennichuck Square, Merrimack, 883-7333, giorgios.com). Serving winter menu and creative specials. Music starts at 9 p.m.

• **NEW YEAR'S DAY BRUNCH** Wed., Jan. 1, at Bedford Village Inn (2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001, bedfordvillageinn.com). Breakfast served from 8 to 10:30 a.m., and brunch served from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Reservations required.

Church/charity suppers/ bake sales

• **COMMUNITY BREAKFAST** Sundays from 8 to 11 a.m. at Philbrick-Clement Post 65 American Legion (12 N. Stark Highway, Weare, 529-2722, nhpost65.us). A la carte breakfast menu benefits the Legion and community outreach. Cost ranges from $3.50 to $7.

• **COMMUNITY SUPPER** Held the third Wednesdays of each month from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Milford at 20 Elm St. See uucm.org.

• **SPAGHETTI SUPPER** at St. George Church (25 Chapel St., Dover) on Sat., Dec. 28, from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Cost $6 for adults, $3 for children. Call 740-4287.

Food classes/workshops

• **COOKING CLUB** Teen cooking group meets on Tuesdays, Jan. 7, Jan. 21, Feb. 4, and Feb. 18, from 3 to 4:15 p.m. at Derry Public Library (64 E. Broadway, Derry, 432-6140, derrypl.org).

• **DANCING LION CHOCOLATE** 917 Elm St., Manchester, offers events and classes regularly. Upcoming classes include: Baking Croissants with Savory Chef Jeff, Mon., Jan. 13, cost $65. Call 625-4043; space limited. Go to dancinglion.us.

• **BONE BROTH SOUP** Wed., Jan. 22, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., at Brown Lane Barn (52 Brown Lane, Hollis). Cost $15, or $100 for the year to include other programs and materials. Call 465-7787 to register.

• **A MARKET** The Manchester natural foods store's education center offers classes and workshops on health and nutrition.



CHOCOLATE MEETS VERMOUTH

Just for the holidays, Cornucopia Wine & Cheese Market will be holding a special Chocolate and Vermouth Tasting on Monday, Dec. 23, at 1 p.m. with Chuck Saunders. This special chocolate and vermouth pairing is in addition to Cornucopia's weekly Wine and Cheese Tastings on Thursdays. Cornucopia Wine & Cheese Market is located at 4 Front St., Exeter. Call 772-4447 or visit cwinecheese.com.









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FOOD

PERISHABLES

Tasty food from fresh ingredients



Cranberries

I love cranberries! My love for them may have something to do with their amazing color or the fact that they appear during my very favorite time of year. These festive berries make their appearance at the Thanksgiving table and stay until the New Year.

Cranberries grow on evergreen shrubs in marshy areas of states like Massachusetts and New Jersey, with harvest time around late autumn, just in time for Turkey Day. To harvest these plants, farmers flood the crops and use what Ocean Spray nicknames an "egg beater" to agitate the water and loose the cranberries from their vines. The cranberries then float above the water, making it easy for them to be aggregated.

While many of the recipes calling for cranberries are loaded with sugar — take cranberry sauce and juice, for starters — there are ways to eat this food without all the extras. It's the trusted food for relieving urinary tract infections, and it's loaded with healthy antioxidants. Without the sugar people normally add, this is actually a very healthy food. Enjoy my recipe below for a taste of this sweet and tart fruit. — *Allison Willson Dudas*

Turkey & cranberry over rice

3 boneless, skinless turkey breasts (about 1 1/4 lb)
1 cup fresh cranberries
1 onion, chopped largely (smaller than quarters)
½ bottle of sweet and spicy French salad dressing
3 tablespoons olive oil
Cooked brown rice (serving suggestion)

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Drizzle olive oil on the bottom of a glass casserole dish and arrange the turkey, cranberries and onions in it. Drizzle the french dressing over top (you may want to use more, if you really like things sweet!).

Bake in over for about 30 minutes, until turkey is cooked all the way through. Serve over brown rice and enjoy.

See myamarket.com.

• **BEDFORD COMMUNITY EDUCATION** Classes offered out of Bedford High School (103 County Road, Bedford, 472-3755). For information, contact Susan Sambrano at sambranos@sau25.net or phone 714-4395. Visit sau25.net/BedfordHigh.cfm and click on Community Enrichment Program under the Community link.

• **CHEZ BOUCHER COOKING SCHOOL** One-day workshops, mini-sessions, international cooking, cooking with friends, team-building, classes for kids and more. Chez Boucher (32 Depot Square, Hampton, 926-2202) can be found online at chezboucher.com.

• **COFFEE COFFEE** Cooking classes features a different dish each with, also includes cooking technique instruction. Meets Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at Coffee Coffee (326 S. Broadway, Salem, 912-5381, coffeeroastersnh.com). Cost $30, call in advance.

• **CO-OP CLASSES** The Concord Cooperative Market (24 S. Main St., Concord, 225-6840, concordfoodcoop.coop), holds regular series on wellness, green living and cooking. Even free classes require registration. Visit concordfoodcoop.coop for schedule. Interested teachers can contact the Co-op Wellness Coordinator, Maria Noël Groves at 410-3099.

• **CREATIVE FEAST CLASSES** Liz Barbour's Creative Feast offers classes and demonstrations held at RiverBend & Company (11 Cornerstone Square, Westford, Mass.). Email lizb@thecreativefeast.com or visit thecreativefeast.com.

• **EXETER ADULT EDUCATION** Cooking classes at Tuck Learning Center (30 Linden St., Exeter) Sessions on baking, global cuisine and more. Dates and fees at 775-8457, tgluck@sau16.org or adulted.sau16.org.

• **FARM FOOD, GARDEN TO TABLE** Chefs at Moulton Farm (18 Quarry Road, Meredith, 279-3915) hold regular workshops, demonstrations, and events on preparing healthy dishes using farm-raised ingredients. Some classes have fees. Check moultonfarm.com; call the farm or email robbmoultonfarm@metrocast.com for details and reservations.

• **FREDERICK'S PASTRIES** One-time classes for kids and adults in cake decoration and design. Frederick's Pastries (109 Route 101A, Amherst, 882-7725) offers demonstrations regularly or by appointment. Check pastry.net or call to schedule.

• **HANNAFORD SUPERMARKETS** offer free classes on stretching your food budget, healthy cooking, time-saving meals and more. See hannaford.com and click on "health & nutrition" for classes at the Hannaford near you.

• **KITCHEN2KITCHEN** Chef Sarah Robinson of Forever Feasting and Margaret Angarella of Guided Nutrition hold Kitchen2Kitchen at the Capitol Center for the Arts (44 S. Main St., Concord) on Saturdays. Sessions are two hours on healthy, delicious and fast meals; $65 per person includes materials, a shared meal, recipes and nutritional information. Visit foreverfeasting.com or call 568-2741.

• **LUNCH & LEARN** The Concord Food Co-op (24 S. Main St., Concord, 225-6840, concordfoodcoop.coop) holds "Lunch & Learn at the Co-op" some Thursdays from 12:15 to 1 p.m. The programs are limited to eight students; call to register.

• **NO-BAKE COOKING** First and third Tuesday of the month at 3:30 p.m. for kids ages 8 and older at the Wilton Public & Gregg Free Library, 7 Forest Road, Wilton. See wiltonlibrarynh.org. Registration required.

FOOD

FROM THE PANTRY

Ideas from off the shelf

Chicken roulade



Over the weekend, I was trapped in a vicious black hole of reruns of *Junior Master Chef*, where pint-size food aficionados wielded knives and created dishes like pros, and most of them were under the age of 12.

As I watched, I grew fascinated with the skill, knowledge and know-how these junior chefs possessed. They calmly flambéed, basted and roasted complex dishes, some of which I've never even heard of, let alone thought to make. Their demeanor in the kitchen and as they rushed through the store-size pantry grabbing ingredients for their next recipe masterpiece was inspiring, if a little intimidating. I sometimes need days to come up with dinner ideas; I don't know how those kids came up with things on the spot.

The reruns did, however, inspire me to try a new dish. After I watched a 10-year-old boy make a chicken roulade stuffed with goat cheese, herbs and spices, I felt confident I could create a roulade as well — even if I cheated.

A roulade by definition is a slice of stuffed meat that is rolled, browned and then braised or steamed. And surprisingly, is not as difficult as it might sound, especially when using boxed stuffing as the filling for the roll.

Stuffing is one of my favorite food groups. I will eat it in or on just about anything, so I figured stuffing a roulade with stuffing made sense — it's in the name, after all.

I didn't look up a recipe for this dish, instead deciding to wing it and hoping for the best. I started with two large chicken breasts, and pounded them out so they were about ¼-inch thick and easy to roll.

After preparing the stuffing according to the directions on the box, I spread a layer over each chicken breast, leaving room around the edges. I rolled the chicken, pressing in any stray stuffing, and closed each piece with toothpicks (kitchen twine will probably work better if you have it on hand).

In a frying pan, I seared each side before putting the chicken in a glass baking dish and baking on 400 degrees until the juices from the chicken ran clear.

In the end, I was surprised with how delicious this dish turned out. The chicken was tender and moist, and the stuffing retained its flavor, texture and moisture for the duration of the baking. Topped with a spoonful of gravy, this dish was perfect for a cold night, and easy enough to make again with holiday leftovers. — *Lauren Mifsud*

Chicken roulade

2 chicken breasts (1 per serving), pounded out to about ¼-inch thickness
1 box stuffing
1 jar gravy
Olive oil for pan searing
Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 400 degrees and prepare stuffing according to package directions. Meanwhile, pound out each piece of chicken to approximately ¼-inch thick. Spread a thin layer of stuffing on each chicken breast, leaving a small border without stuffing around the edges. Roll each piece lengthwise, tucking in any escaping stuffing as you go, and secure with toothpicks or kitchen twine. Coat the bottom of a frying pan with olive oil, and sear each chicken breast on every side until lightly brown. Transfer to a baking dish and bake, seam-side down, until juices run clear. Serve with gravy if desired.

• **WINTERGREEN BOTANICALS** Herbalist Maria Noël Groves holds regular classes all over the state on the use of herbs for better health. Contact her at 340-5161 or see schedule at wintergreenbotanicals.com.

• **YMCA COOKING SEMINARS** Every first Monday at Nashua YMCA (24 Stadium Drive, Nashua), hosted by The Courville Communities' Executive Chef Greg Wadland and Pastry Chef Rejean Sheehe, 12:30-1:30 p.m. New theme each month with sample recipes, meal ideas, food substitution guidelines and more. Call 882-2011.

Tastings

• **COFFEE** roasting and tasting demonstration of Kona Coffee at A&E Roastery, 131 Route 101A, Amherst. Free. Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 578-3338.

• **COFFEE** with food pairing on Fridays at 7 p.m. at Coffee Coffee (326 S. Broadway, Salem, 912-5381, coffeeroastersnh.com).

• **EXOTIC MEATS** The Healthy Buffalo, Route 4 in Chichester, 369-3611, healthybuffalo.com, offers tastings of its exotic meats every Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Try the ostrich, alligator, elk, kangaroo and buffalo.

Winter farmers markets

• **CANTERBURY** Indoor market on Saturday, Dec. 14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Canterbury Elementary School gym







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FOOD

JUST DESSERTS

Recipes for the sweet tooth

Butter cookies



Bakery cakes are pretty amazing: The flourishes of frosting, the buttercream roses, the ridges and swirls of icing. With some basic equipment and some steady hands, a skilled decorator can do some delightful things to a cake.

I am not a skilled decorator.

And thus, for many years, I thought of pastry tips and pastry bags as unnecessary and maybe a little scary. Lately, however, I have discovered that one need not be sculpting sugar flowers or calligraphing birthday greetings to make pretty and tasty use of such equipment.

Most often, I use a medium-sized tip in conjunction with some buttercream to frost cupcakes with decorative spirals that are both prettier and easier to execute than standard frosting techniques. And a long narrow tip thrust into the center of a cupcake can be used to inject a creamy filling.

This week, however, I used a pastry tip to create, rather than embellish, a dessert.

The inspiration for this recipe is the Danish butter cookies that appear everywhere in circular blue tins this time of year. They appear to be unappealingly dry and dull little bits, but one bite reveals them to be buttery and rich and sweet, addictive morsels.

The recipe I settled on in my attempt to recreate this experience is utterly simple. Butter, sugar, flour, salt, vanilla, and egg combine to form a very soft dough, the perfect consistency to squeeze through a large pastry tip. I kept this batch very plain, the perfect accompaniment to a cup of tea or cocoa, but they are an excellent platform for embellishment. Scale bake on the vanilla and add a teaspoon of citrus zest or ½ teaspoon cinnamon. If you like, dust unbaked cookies with finely chops nuts or colored sugars to add flavor and flair. Enjoy.

— *Sarah Shemkus*

Swirly Butter Cookies

Recipe adapted from several sources

12 tablespoons unsalted butter, room temperature
½ cup sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 egg yolk
¼ teaspoon salt
1¼ cups flour

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place two large cookie sheets in freezer. Sift together flour and salt in a small mixing bowl. Set aside.

Using an electric or stand mixer, beat together butter and sugar until light and fluffy, about 5 minutes. Add vanilla and egg yolk and mix at slow until combined. Stir in flour a little at a time, until fully mixed.

Fit a pastry bag with a large, star-shaped pastry tip. Place bag in tall drinking glass and fold down edges over top of glass. Scrape half of dough into bag. Remove cookie sheet from freezer and pipe S-shaped or spiral cookies 2 inches apart. Bake for 7 to 10 minutes, until edges are just slightly golden. Transfer to wire rack to cool immediately.

Repeat with remaining dough and second cookie sheet.

(15 Baptist Road, Canterbury). Visit ccfma.net.

• **CONCORD** Winter Farmers Market at Cole Gardens (430 Loudon Road, Concord, 229-0655, colegardens.com) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays until April 12 (no market on Dec. 28).

• **DERRY** on the first and third Saturday of the month, until Sat., March 15, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Upper Village Hall, 52 East Derry Road, East Derry. Visit derry-nh.org.

• **GREENLAND** Held on the first and third Saturday of the month through March 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Rolling Green Nursery, 64 Breakfast Hill Road. See rollinggreennursery.com.

• **HENNIKER** at Community Park (57 Main St.), Thursdays, from 4 to 7 p.m. Visit hennikerfarmersmarket.com.

• **MILFORD** in the Town Hall auditorium (1 Union Square) from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Held bi-weekly. Go to milfordnhfarmersmarket.com.

• **NOTTINGHAM** Sun., Dec. 15, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Old Town Hall on Stage Road, across from Blaisdell Memorial Library. Find it on Facebook.

• **ROLLINSFORD** Saturdays, Dec. 21, Jan. 25, Feb. 22, March 22, and April 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Wentworth Greenhouses, 141 Rollins Road, Rollinsford. See seacoastlocal.org.

• **TILTON** Saturdays and Sundays through March 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at AutoServ, 67 E. Main St., Tilton. Visit tiltonwinterfarmersmarket.com.

CSA

• **ABBOTT FARM WINTER** Nov. through Feb. Veggies, fruits, eggs, homemade breads, flowers and sweet corn. Pick up at Abbott Farm (390 Sanborn Road, Tilton). Call 286-9424, email veggies@theabbottfarm.com or visit theabbottfarm.com for membership.

• **LOCAL HARVEST CSA** offer spring, summer and fall shares with a pick-up spot in Concord. See localharvestnh.com.

• **RED GATE GARDEN** Red Gate Garden in Loudon offers a 17-week summer CSA with a wide variety of vegetables. Whole shares are $480 and half-shares are $275. See redgategarden.com.

Holiday cocktails

Recipes to spice up your season

By Stefanie Phillips
food@hippopress.com

If you are hosting a holiday gathering, here are some cocktail recipe ideas made with common ingredients. You will want to adjust the amounts accordingly, as most of these recipes make one serving. If you are making cocktails for a smaller gathering, remember you can always get nips of some of these ingredients, like the Godiva white chocolate liqueur and the Dr. McGillicuddy's, so you don't have to spend a fortune or end up with too much leftover liquor after the holidays.

Some of these recipes incorporate local New Hampshire wines and meads, available at their respective wineries or at various New Hampshire Wine and Liquor Outlet locations.

Manchester

Recipe courtesy of Flag Hill Winery
2 ounces White Mountain Moonshine
½ ounce sweet vermouth
Two dashes aromatic bitters
Cherries for garnish
Directions: Combine all ingredients and stir with ice in a mixing glass. Strain into a chilled cocktail glass. Garnish with a cherry.

Vanilla & Rum Eggnog

Recipe courtesy of LaBelle Winery
Two ounces LaBelle Winery Dulce
2 ounces rum
2 ounces eggnog
Half ounce simple syrup
Dash of LaBelle Winery Pure Vanilla or vanilla extract
Dash cinnamon sugar
Dash nutmeg
Mix the first five ingredients over ice in a strainer and shake to blend until frothy. Strain into martini glass; garnish with a sprinkle of cinnamon sugar, nutmeg and a candy cane.

Meady Waters

Recipe courtesy of Sap House Meadery
1 ounce Sap House Meadery Sugar Maple
1 ounce Bailey's Irish Cream
1 ounce Kahlua
4 ounces dairy or nut milk
One banana
Three ice cubes
Shaved chocolate for garnish
Directions: Place all ingredients in a blender and process until smooth. Serve in a martini glass with shaved chocolate, if desired.

Crème Brulee

1 ounce Crown Royal Canadian Whiskey
½ ounce Smirnoff Vanilla Vodka
½ ounce Bailey's Irish Cream
Brown sugar for rim, if desired
Directions: Combine the Crown Royal and vodka in a shaker with ice. Shake well and strain into a glass garnished with a brown sugar rim. Carefully pour Bailey's over a spoon to achieve a layered effect.

The Candy Cane

1 ounce Godiva White Chocolate Liqueur
½ ounce Smirnoff Vanilla Vodka
½ ounce Dr. McGillicuddy's Mentho Mint (or peppermint schnapps)
Grenadine
Crushed candy canes for garnish, if desired
Directions: Combine the Godiva, vodka and Dr. McGillicutty's in a shaker with one cup of ice. Shake well and strain into a martini glass. Carefully pour the grenadine so it settles at the bottom of the glass. Garnish with crushed candy canes.

Pomegranate Champagne Cocktail

Recipe courtesy of Better Homes and Gardens
1 ounce chilled pomegranate or cranberry juice
3 ounces chilled Champagne or sparkling wine
1 teaspoon pomegranate seeds for garnish
Pour the juice into a Champagne flute. Slowly add the Champagne or sparkling wine. Garnish with pomegranate seeds if desired.

Barefoot Bubbly Winter Wonder

Recipe courtesy of Barefoot Wine & Bubbly
4 ounces Barefoot Bubbly Brut Cuvee
¾ ounce Blue Curacao
¼ ounce grenadine
Maraschino cherry for garnish
Directions: Combine the blue curacao and grenadine in a cocktail shaker with ice. Shake to blend and chill. Strain into a champagne flute. Top with the Barefoot Bubbly and garnish with a sunken maraschino cherry if desired. This is a great holiday cocktail because the grenadine and curacao combine to create a great blue-purplish hue.

Canelle Domani

Recipe courtesy of Ecco Domani
One bottle Ecco Domani Merlot
10 tablespoons sugar
One orange peel
One lemon peel
10 cloves
1 teaspoon cinnamon powder
Directions: In a medium pot, heat one bottle of Ecco Domani Merlot. Stir in 10 tablespoons of sugar until dissolved. In a strainer, combine the orange and lemon peels, cloves and cinnamon powder. Let the strainer sit in the heating wine for about 20 minutes. Make sure the mixture is not boiling. Allow the mixture to cool or serve it hot based on preference. Remove the strainer and pour the liquid into a glass mug. Garnish with a cinnamon stick or orange slice. It is best to prepare this recipe one hour before serving. Makes four servings. This cocktail is perfect to warm up on cold winter evenings.

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DRINK

RED, WHITE & GREEN

Bottles for the budget-conscious wine-lover





You can not judge a wine by its varietal.

This week, we tried two wines that surprised us by not showing the normal characteristics of the grape.

The **2011 The Franc Cosentino Cabernet Franc** from Lodi ($16.99 from The Wine Studio in Manchester) was "more Lodi than cab franc," one of us remarked on first taste. This dark purple wine has a fruity aroma and, surprisingly for the normally big, muscular cab franc, the flavors were rather light. The wine had a fruitiness and some tannins and a little gameyness as well but wasn't the big drink we were expecting. A little harsh by itself, this wine married well with food, especially food with a little fattiness to help round out some of the sharp edges.

The **2011 Caretaker Cabernet Sauvignon** from Paso Robles ($9.99 from Trader Joe's in Nashua) was also not your standard cab — more an example of wines from its region than of the grape as you might know it from northern California or the Pacific Northwest. This inky purple wine gave off aromas of blackberry and raspberry. Lighter than many cabs, the Caretaker nonetheless had good structure.

Each week in "Red, White & Green," the wine-lovers taste red and white wines that sell for not too much of the green, less than $20. The goal? To find a good bottle without breaking the bank. Unless otherwise noted, the prices listed are what you'll find the bottles selling for at the New Hampshire Wine & Liquor Outlet.

Drink

Beer/wine dinners

• **JINGLE BALL HOLIDAY PARTY** Fri., Dec. 20, from 6 to 11 p.m. at Zorvino Vineyards (226 Main St., Sandown, 887-8463, zorvino.com), with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, four-course dinner and dancing.

Beer/wine festivals and special events

• **CHOCOLATE AND VERMOUTH TASTING** Pairing and tasting event on Mon., Dec. 23, at 1 p.m. at Cornucopia Wine & Cheese Market (4 Front St., Exeter, 772-4447, cwinecheese.com).

• **EASTER SEALS WINTER WINE SPECTACULAR** Thurs., Jan. 30, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel, 700 Elm St., Manchester. Features over 1,500 wine varieties to sample and food from local restaurants. Cost $65 per person, and full access tickets to the Grand Tasting and Bellman's Cellar Select costs $125 per person. Proceeds benefit Easter Seals of NH. Visit eastersealsnh.org.

Beer/wine making classes

• **HAPPY NEW BEERS** Thurs., Jan. 9, at 6 p.m. at IncrediBREW (112 Daniel Webster Hwy., Nashua, 891-2477, incredibrew.com). Cost $35 for variety case, bottles included.

• **NEW YEAR'S WINEFEST** Fri., Jan. 10, at 6 p.m. at IncrediBREW (112 Daniel Webster Hwy., Nashua, 891-2477, incredibrew.com). Cost $60 for six bottles of wine.

Weekly/monthly tastings

• **ATTREZZI** 78 Market St., Portsmouth, 427-1667, attrezzinh.com, Fridays at 3 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m.

• **BUTTER'S** Weekly wine tastings at Butter's Fine Food and Wine, 249 Sheep Davis Road, Concord, 225-5995, buttersfinefood.com, Usually Tuesdays, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., times and days vary.

• **CORNUCOPIA WINE AND CHEESE MARKET** 4 Front St., Exeter, 772-4447, holds a tasting every Friday from 4 to 7 p.m.

• **DOVER WINE STORE** 364 Central Ave., Dover, 742-WINE (9463), doverwine.com, on Fridays, 4 to 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 1 to 4 p.m.

• **DURHAM MARKETPLACE** 7 Mill Road, Durham, 868-2500, holds wine tasting on Fridays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

• **FIDDLEHEAD FARMS MARKETPLACE** 920 Central Ave., Dover, 749-9800, every Friday at 4:30 p.m.

• **HOLY GRAIL PINT NIGHTS** Thurs., 8 to 11 p.m., at the Holy Grail Restaurant and Pub (64 Main St., Epping, 679-9559) Sponsoring beer is sold at special price and drinkers get to keep a promotional glass. Check out holygrailrestaurantandpub.com for upcoming beers.

• **LUCIAS BODEGA** Taste craft beer on Fridays 4-8 p.m. and fine wines on Thursdays 4-8 p.m. and Saturdays noon-6 p.m. at Lucia's Bodega (30 Indian Rock Road, Windham, 421-9463). Details at luciasbodega.com.

• **IN THE MIX KITCHEN SERIES** at New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlets superstore (25 Coliseum Ave., Nashua) with local restaurants pairing meals with wine and spirits. Free, noon to 2 p.m. every Saturday.

• **NH LIQUOR STORES** statewide host wine-tastings and promotional events. See nh.gov/liquor/mktevent.shtml.

• **SIDEWAYS TASTING** WineNot, 70 Main St., Nashua, 204-5569, will hold a "sideways" wine tasting on Wednesdays from 5 to 7 p.m. The tastings will present wines from an individual distributor to be tasted side by side.

• **VINO AROMAS** 998 Elm St., Manchester, 626-8466, vino-aromas.com, offers "Wines Around the World" every Sat. from 4 to 6 p.m. Cost is $10. They also offer tastings every Thurs. from 5 to 7 p.m.

• **VARIETAL TASTING** Monthly, first Thursdays 5-8 p.m. The Wine Studio (53 Hooksett Road, Manchester) discusses and samples five wines from different countries, regions and wineries from one grape. Visit thewinestudionh.com or call 622-9463.

• **WINENOT BOUTIQUE** 170 Main St., Nashua, 204-5569, winenotboutique.com, Wednesdays from 5 to 8 p.m.

• **WINE SENSE** 166 N. Main St., Andover, Mass., 978-749-9464, wine-sense.net, Thursdays from 6 to 8 p.m.

• **WINE STEWARD** 201 Route 111, Hampstead, 329-4634, thewinestewardnh.com, Thursdays from 5 to 7 p.m., and Saturdays from noon to 5 p.m.



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Includes listings for lectures, author events, book clubs, writers' workshops and other literary events. To let us know about your book or event, e-mail Kelly Sennott at ksennott@hippopress.com. To get author events, library events and more listed, send information to listings@hippopress.com.

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POP CULTURE

MUSIC, BOOKS, GAMES, COMICS, MOVIES, DVDS, TV AND MORE

Boston, *Life Love & Hope* (Frontiers Records)



This surprise freebie came in for proper review a day or so after I put the other week's snark column to bed, the Playlist where I made fun of this band — more specifically bandleader Tom Scholtz — for not having had an original idea since 1976. The band's debut album is of course the stuff of legend, but it took many years to finish, spoiling Scholtz for real record contracts, which in those days called for one year between albums. On *LL&H*, the band's antiseptic, heavily layered pseudo-prog hasn't changed; it ends up reading like some weird form of tribute-ish thing, with every past vocalist but Stryper's Michael Sweet taking whacks at these songs. The tragically departed Brad Delp weighs in on three songs, "Didn't Mean to Fall in Love," "Someone" (both of those tunes are sort of OK after Toto and Van Hagar sorts of fashion, although both feature brain-freeze moments wherein Scholtz microwaves "More Than a Feeling") and the album's worst moment, an unintentional ballad with Kimberly Dahme ("Sail Away"). The slide guitar on "You Gave Up on Love 2.0" is a welcome curveball, but there's some hobbit in there playing a flute. A flute. **C+** — *Eric W. Saeger*

Foetus, *Soak* (Ectopic Ents)



Back to the renaissance art-punk bowels of New Yawk, which last we left when I reviewed the most recent Swans album, an LP I had trouble enthusing over since I was never a big Swans guy. Foetus principal JG Thirlwell, though, is definitely in my wheelhouse; I'm a fan since 1985's *Nail*, which led to earlier things, much of which had, nestled within the industrial clamor, a lot of big band and swing elements, a little like what you'd hear if Jim Carrey's *Mask* character were a spree killer. Thirlwell's been spending his fourth decade of anarchic sound-age exploring more classical symphonics, such as the cello quartet one-off performance with Zola Jesus. In this one, the out-and-out evilness isn't nearly as unsubtle as in years past, but it's jolly black for sure, don't worry. Album opener "The Red and Black and Gray and White" revolves around spazzy marching-band percussion, followed immediately by the spooky (but still spazzy) "Pratheism," its wild-eyed concert-choir evoking *O Fortuna* visions of robe-clad sacrifices and such. Clang-and-bang industrial stomper "Warm Leatherette" is more like the Foetus I know, maliciousness wrapped in every syllable, and then we're on to "Danger Global Warming," in which he reinvents latter-day Skinny Puppy. A seriously mixed bag, all over the place, but unapologetically Thirlwell. **A-** — *Eric W. Saeger*

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• Next week is the big holiday week, so the activity at my desk is as slow as fossilized molasses cryogenically frozen in an ice block. One good thing, at least there is no new "product" from Steve Aoki, who suddenly became the "It" DJ of 2013 without any warning (or reason). So basically all there is to talk about is nostalgia, as there are a few collector-vinyl things and unnecessary re-releases of CDs, such as UK band **Cabaret Voltaire**'s *The Covenant, the Sword, and the Arm of the Lord*, a CD that originally came out in 1986. This was dada music, electronic nonsense with a New Order kind of sound — you could dance to it whether or not you were as crazy as those guys, so it was okay. Anyway, that one and three other old albums of theirs were re-released by Mute Records on vinyl and CD, and all of them streeted last week.

• Next week sees the vinyl release of prairie-indie kings **Calexico**'s newest live album *Spiritoso*, which came out on CD in April. Includes stuff like "Frontera Trigger," "The News About William" and 10 other songs.

• Meat-wearing human psychology experiment **Lady Gaga** decided that her all-unoriginal *Artpop* LP needed to come out on vinyl as well as forgettable CD, and thus it shall, next week. It takes two vinyl albums to capture the entire essence of this lazily written nothingness, and so it took the sacrifice of hundreds of metric tons of vinyl to capture the digital noises she made to support these boring, microwaved songs. If there's anything interesting that remains about Lady Gaga, it's watching to see what level of burnout such an overexposed person can withstand before they just cold go insane. You remember Britney's fruitcake greatest hits? Well, Gaga simply has to run off the rails one of these days. Maybe she'll marry a chimpanzee and do xylophone versions of doo-wop songs. In the meantime, her next album has a built-in game, namely "Which girl-pop artist will she rip off next?", now that Madonna and Ace of Base are out of the way. My money's on The Bangles.

• Aside from the above, there is literally no new music coming out on Christmas Eve except for **Slayer**'s *Live: Decade of Aggression* on vinyl and finally the granddaddy of all compilations, something from **Yes** called *The Studio Albums 1969-1987*, which requires investing in 13-count-em CDs, most of which you already have if you're the type of person who'd be tempted to buy such a thing. — *Eric W. Saeger*



GAMER REVIEWS



Batman: Arkham Origins

(PC/PS3/WiiU/360)
Warner Brothers Games Montreal

On Christmas Eve, set some years before the events of *Batman: Arkham Asylum*, a younger Batman has a $50-million bounty placed on his head by the Gotham crime lord Black Mask. This price tag brings a host of the DC universe's most notable assassins to town to try and bring the gadget-slinging billionaire down. The flimsy plot setup, creating a checklist of boss battles to tick your way through as the caped crusader, falls aside quickly when you discover that *Origins* is not that story. In a riskier turn *Origins* is attempting to retell the first meeting of Bats and his arch-enemy, the Joker.

Wait, what? Yes, this is *another* Batman game with the clown prince of crime as the main antagonist, but what were you expecting? How can you have a Batman game without his grinning psychopathic counterpart? And if you are going to have Joker in the mix, how do you NOT make him the central figure?

The gameplay? Oh, it is note for note exactly every other game in the Arkham series. Batman grapnels his way across Gotham, entering a double handful of buildings when the plot demands you encounter a named adversary. You toss Batarangs, spray Bat-spolsive gel and whip concussive Bat-grenades at circling gangs of foes as you make your way to each subsections supervillainous boss battle. While some of these fights, like the early kung fu slap fight with super soldier Deathstroke, are merely extended combat encounters, things do get more interesting. You silently stalk the minions of hitman Deadshot and have a gadget tossing exchange with the battle-suited pyromaniac Firefly atop Gotham's Pioneer Bridge in two of the more interesting encounters. The cinematic battles do a fine job of emphasizing the rich character of Batman's gallery of foes and these meetings carrot you along through an otherwise inconsistently tuned game.

Bruce Wayne's combat regimen is nearly identical to earlier outings. You attempt to string unbroken combo strings together among whichever clutch of galoots you're pounding on to unlock more devastating martial arts tricks. You augment your vicious flurry of elbow strikes with your belt of wonderful toys and earn experience based on the difficulty of the fight and your panache at curb-stomping. His stealth takedowns and silent predator encounters are also largely unchanged. You swing from indoor gargoyle (seriously!?) to indoor gargoyle, hiding from incompetent guards who still don't have the sense to look up, check an air vent or not stand with their back to a darkened doorway.

Batman's legendary detective skills do receive a bit of an upgrade with his new (old?) crime analysis skills. But this pause-and-rewind reconstruction of crime scenes is little more than a 3D clue hunt. While tedious, it does inject some dimension to the character and puts a bit of the investigation into the plot.

Oddly enough, it is the plot where *Origins* shines. Taken point by point, *Origins* seems a lazy mess. It's the Joker, again. There's a punch list of superfoes to fight, again. You have a city to "explore," but it is little more than a trail for the bloody breadcrumbs of psychopathic violence. Yet, the Joker is fresh again, an unknown operating on a murderous scale above all the rest. The background tension of a Batman hunted by enemies and the police alike frame the chase well, and the snowy Christmas night set the tone at exactly the correct tenor of calm before the peril. *Origins* made some bold choices in to it's benefit but it carries too much of it's forerunners mechanics while backsliding on some of their functionality. *Batman: Arkham Origins* seems like the odd game where it could have done more with less. Restrict this Batman to his wits, fists and fewer tricks and put him up against the same cast of foes and the experience would be richer for it. **B+**
– *Glenn Given*

Glenn Given is a writer, designer and game maker. You can find more of his reviews at gamesbyplaydate.com









Drag queens and covered bridges

Manchester artist's new calendar depicts 'the culture of New Hampshire'



Violencia Exclamation Point, Wentworth Golf Course Bridge in Jackson. Andre Rosa photo.

On exhibit at Top Shelf

Top Shelf Gallery and Artist's Collaborative show the photos that make up the Drag Queens and Covered Bridges Calendar. A number of other artists show their work, too. Music will be provided by SVEN.

Where: 657 Elm St., Manchester
When: Saturday, Dec. 21, 7 to 11 p.m.
Admission: $7 at the door, $5 if you come in wearing a funky hat

Find the calendar at robotnotes.com/store.

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

New Hampshire is a "pretty quaint place," said Manchester resident Andre Rosa. It's much quieter than, say, Los Angeles, which is where Rosa used to live.

So imagine his surprise when, during his first night in the city two years ago, he stumbled upon a "hole-in-the-wall" gay bar on Elm Street filled with drag queens.

"Even in [L.A.], I would rarely see drag queens," Rosa said in a phone interview.

But when he moved here in 2011 for the Free State Project (freestateproject.org), he realized that dressing in drag is sort of a thing around here. He joked to his friend, "I've discovered the culture of New Hampshire. It's two things: covered bridges and drag queens."

His friend suggested he make a calendar about it. So he did.

"New England is so famous for its covered bridges, and I thought the juxtaposition was too funny," Rosa said.

Plus, he said, it wasn't hard for him to get 12 girls in drag involved with the project. Most drag queens, he said, love getting their photos taken.

"I thought it was a great idea," said Amber Alyrt, who poses for September and is on the cover of the calendar. She's a regular performer at Club 313 and lives in Manchester. "I loved the whole thing. I think that some of the pictures are absolutely gorgeous, and it's about all different aspects of our community."

Rosa's very successful kickstarter campaign provided the backing he needed to fund the project's printing in October. This December, the calendars became available for purchase. They depict 12 New Hampshire drag queens at 11 New Hampshire (and one Vermont) covered bridges.

> "I've discovered the culture of New Hampshire. It's two things: covered bridges and drag queens."
>
> ANDRE ROSA

To Rosa's delight, they've been garnering quite a bit of attention.

If you didn't know about the state's drag queen population, don't feel bad — you're not alone. It was even surprising to some drag queens. Take Laila McQueen, who modeled at the Swift River Bridge in Conway. She moved here three years ago from Massachusetts to attend the New Hampshire Institute of Art, and at first, she was shocked.

But then, you wouldn't know much about the state's drag population unless you were really into the Manchester night scene, particularly the Manchester gay night scene.

"There are drag shows in Manchester on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays," Rosa said. "Drag queens don't just walk the streets in their outfits. It's more of a performance, a theater thing."

There are, however, pros to dressing in drag garb during the daylight, particularly in northern New Hampshire, where you "just don't see that kind of thing around," said one onlooker.

During one photo shoot in Conway, Rosa was snapping shots of McQueen in front of Swift River Bridge. She sported long blonde hair, parted in the middle, and a risque magenta corset with black tights, gloves and an animal skin. McQueen had never traveled that far north in New Hampshire. She knew there wasn't much of a gay community, or rather, a gay nightlife there, and so she felt a bit nervous, particularly when the shoot collected some onlookers.

"This little girl and her dad came up to us. I was so nervous that they were going to say something inappropriate," McQueen said. "But it was so cute. … The dad said, 'We wanted to come and take a look because she swore this was Lady Gaga over here.'"

For Rosa, it was relieving. Not everyone had been so open-minded about the drag calendar. Many of the bridges he photographed were privately owned, so he needed to request permission before shooting.

"It made me feel better because I was actually in a foul mood. The day before I had gone up to Bartlett Bridge and tried to get permission to shoot there. They'd said the bridge was a 'wholesome' place, and I had to spend the day trying to find another replacement bridge," Rosa said.

And that wasn't the only time it happened.

"I think it [the calendar] also tells a great story about how open some of New Hampshire is, but also how close-minded some of the state is," Alyrt said. (Her photo was taken in Vermont, after Rosa was denied permission to photograph at Clark's Trading Post.)

Rosa is not a professional photographer, though he is an artist. He attended the University of Southern California for animation, which, he says, is his "general trade," but he dabbles in other media too. Right now, he works as a software engineer during the day.

"This was my love letter to New Hampshire," Rosa said. "It's my statement to where I think New Hampshire is at the moment. … The whole project is about New Hampshire culture, which has its beauty marks and its warts."

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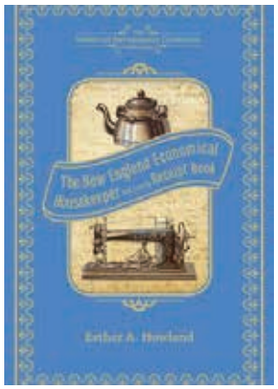
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***The New England Economical Housekeeper and Family Receipt Book*, by Esther A. Howland (Andrews McMeel, 87 pages)**

Frugality is undergoing a renaissance, what with the recession, the housing bust and the ever-present threat of a $7 gallon of milk if dairy subsidies expire. Television and the Internet burble merrily with extreme cheapskates who would have us believe they feed a family of six on a hundred dollars a month.

Into this economic landscape enters Esther A. Howland, who probably fed, clothed and warmed her family on even less than that sum. The catch is that Mrs. Howland was born in 1801 and wrote her handbook for those "who would cook well at a moderate expense" in the mid-1800s. Her *New England Economical Housekeeper* is one of a hundred historic volumes issued by Andrews McMeel through preservation efforts of the American Antiquarian Society.

The first three (*American Cookery*, *Vegetable Diet*, and *Jewish Cookery Book*), published last year, are, the publisher trumpets, "historic cookbooks for the modern foodie." They're also, quite simply, a hoot.

Who knew, for example, how to boil a calf's head, or cure an earache with onions? Or that, when making a pumpkin pie, pounded crackers are a good substitute for eggs? Who knew how to make whortleberry pudding in winter? Or that there was a whortleberry at all? (You may know it as a huckleberry or a bilberry; similar to a blueberry, it's the fruit of a short, wild shrub.)

Mrs. Howe, a homemaker in Worcester, Mass., knew these things and more, and, at age 43, compiled her own recipes, and those of her friends, to educate her contemporaries, and, unknowingly amuse generations of future homemakers whose grandparents were not yet conceived.

Fewer than 200 years separate the modern foodie from Mrs. Howland and her kitchen, but some of her techniques seem ancient, if not downright scary (See, "How to boil a tongue.") But it's fascinating reading, like opening a primitive door into a Colonial kitchen, where cooking was considered both "art and mystery." Two-thirds of the book is devoted to recipes; the rest, to miscellaneous housekeeping advice and remedies for physical ailments that, one suspects, might have occurred because of the recipes, say, the one for "Indian gruel."

But as ripe as this material is for comedy, there is an earnest goodness about it, and a serious dedication to the craft of homemaking that makes Rachael Ray and her empire seem like so much dandelion fluff. Boiling meats well, for example, "demands a patient and perpetual vigilance, of which few persons are capable," Mrs. Howland instructs. None of this "watched pot never boils" stuff for her; she encourages the cook to stand watch to ensure that the water boils constantly, and to be ready to remove the rising scum. "On this depends the good appearance of all boiled things. When you have skimmed well, put in some cold water, which will throw up the rest of the scum."

The presentations of the recipes are interesting in their brevity. Here's one for gingerbread:

Rub four and a half pounds of flour with half a pound of lard and half a pound of butter; a pint of molasses, a gill of milk, tea-cup of ginger, a tea-spoonful of saleratus, stirred together. All mixed, baked in shallow pans, twenty or thirty minutes.

A "gill" of milk is a half-cup, by the way; "saleratus" is what we call baking powder. If you didn't know that, no worries; in her foreword celebrity chef Barbara Lynch confesses she had to look up saleratus, too. She recommends Mrs. Howland's instruction for its "balance between good taste and frugality" and says the book inspired her to make her own vinegar and potato starch. As for me, I eagerly tried the remedy for chapped hands — rub with half a teaspoon of good honey — although I couldn't try her recipe for tooth wash since I seem to be short on lime-water and Peruvian bark. Conclusion: Honey probably worked fine back in the day, but I'll be sticking with Burt's Bees.

The Economical Housekeeper is reproduced exactly like the original — right down to stains and smudges on the pages. It's the literary embodiment of the word "quaint," more history than help, but an interesting addition to any modern kitchen. For a cool Christmas present, give it, along with Mrs. Howland's common mince pie. Of course, three hippies wired to their eyeballs in a snowbound cabin for a month—sooner or later, someone's gonna snap. **B** —*Jennifer Graham*

CHILDREN'S ROOM

A weekly recommendation from the Concord Public Library

Favor Johnson: A Christmas Story

Written by Willem Lange, illustrated by Bert Dodson, 2009

(Picture book, ages 4-8)



Favor Johnson, a poor farmer, leads a lonely life with his animals and his faithful dog Hercules, until one Christmas Eve changes everything for Favor and everyone in his village. This story of neighbors caring for and helping each other quietly reminds us what this hectic season is really about.

OUT NEXT WEEK

French Women Don't Get Facelifts: The Secret of Aging with Style & Attitude

By Mireille Guiliano



Hits shelves: Dec. 24

Author best known for: *French Women Don't Get Fat*

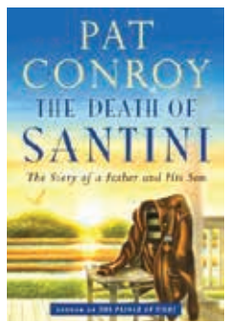
One-sentence review: "Mostly frivolous reading — which is not to say it won't sell well." — Kirkus Review

TOP 10 Literary biographies

For the week of Dec. 9
(barnesandnoble.com)

1. ***The Death of Santini: The Story of a Father and His Son***
By Pat Conroy
Hardcover, October 2013

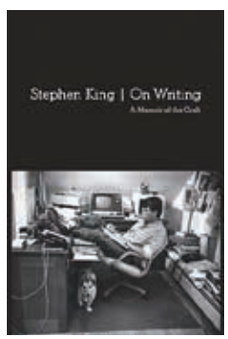
2. ***Autobiography of Mark Twain, Volume 2 : The Complete and Authoritative Edition***
By Mark Twain
Hardcover, October 2013



3. ***This Is the Story of a Happy Marriage***
By Ann Patchett
Hardcover, November 2013

4. ***On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft***
By Stephen King
Paperback, July 2010

5. ***Salinger***
by: David Shields, Shane Salerno
Hardcover, September 2013



6. ***A Prayer Journal***
by: Flannery O'Connor, W. A. Sessions (Editor)
Hardcover, November 2013

7. ***Mom & Me & Mom***
by: Maya Angelou
Hardcover, April 2013

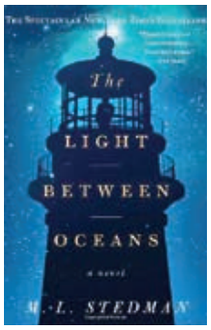
8. ***Night***
By Elie Wiesel, Marion Wiesel (Translator), Elie Wiesel (Preface by)
Paperback, January 2006

9. ***A Homemade Life : Stories and Recipes from My Kitchen Table***
By Molly Wizenberg, Camilla Engman (Illustrator)
Paperback, March 2010

10. ***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings***
By Maya Angelou
Mass Market Paperback, April 2009

FROM THE

BOOKSHELF



The Light Between Oceans by M.L. Stedman is about how the choices we make can come back to haunt us. In fact, that message seems to slap you across the face several times, so much so that for me, it became depressing and borderline irritating.

Of course, that's arguably the point of the book — lots of people enjoyed *The Light Between Oceans*. It apparently made The New York Times bestseller list and received many positive reviews. For me, it was good enough to finish but not good enough for me to highly recommend to friends, family and coworkers. (This year, those books are *The Art of Fielding*, *Where'd You Go, Bernadette?* and *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society.*)

It follows a guy named Tom Shelbourne, who returns home to Australia after four years on the Western Front in the early 1900s. He's physically healthy but not uninjured: he's haunted by the things he's seen and done in the war. He takes a job that he thinks will let him live at peace: He becomes a lighthouse keeper on Janus Rock, an island off the coast of Australia so secluded that Tom only gets one month's leave for every three-year contract.

The beginning of the book moves quickly and is enjoyable; Shelbourne falls in love and marries a young woman, Isabel Graysmark, who, despite her own losses in the war — both her brothers died — is bright, kind and makes Tom happy for the first time he can remember.

She too moves to Janus Rock, and for a brief while, they're happy. That ends swiftly when a series of miscarriages causes them both — Isabel in particular — to become depressed and bitter. It's likely the reason that, when a boat carrying a dead man and a live, baby girl washes ashore, Isabel is determined to keep the baby. She's convinced it's a sign, a gift from God. Tom is doubtful and wants to report the dead man and return the baby, but he ultimately agrees. They call her Lucy.

But alas, they must come to terms with this hasty decision when they return to mainland. There's hurt, blame and drama, which is understandable, but there's so much of it that at a certain point you start struggling to finish the book. Honestly, part of the reason I kept at it was because I bought (as opposed to borrowed) *The Light Between Oceans*.

Stedman does do a great job of providing alternating points of view, which is refreshing and interesting and makes it a lot harder to choose sides.

— *Kelly Sennott*

Books

Author events

• **CAROL LEE ANDERSON** talks about her book *The New England Life of Cartoonist Bob Montana: Beyond the Archie Comic Strip* at Water Street Bookstore, 125 Water St., Exeter, at Gibson's Bookstore, 45 S. Main St., Concord, on Thurs., Jan. 9, at 7 p.m.

• **ROBIN SCHOEN AND GAIL HOAR** introduce new book, *Grandmother's Guest: The Blue Lady of Wilton* at Toadstool Bookshop, 12 Depot Square, Peterborough, on Sat., Dec. 21, at 11 a.m. Call 924-3543, visit toadstool.indiebound.com.

• **JASON LANDRY** talks about his new book, *Instant Connections: Essays and Interviews On Photography* on Sat., Jan. 11, at 11 a.m., at Toadstool Bookshop, 12 Depot Square, Peterborough. Call 924-3543, visit toadstool.indiebound.com.

• **TERESA SANTOSKI** signs her book, *Prayers for Oppa* on Sat., Jan. 11, at the Toadstool Bookshop, 586 Nashua St., Milford, 2-4 p.m. Call 673-1734, email books@mtoad.com, visit teresasantoski.com. She also speaks at the "official" release event on Sat., Jan. 25, at 6:30 p.m., at The Cozy Tea Cart, 104 Route 13, Brookline.

• **STEPHEN LONG** talks about his book *More Than a Woodlot* and about how you can help protect New Hampshire's wildlife at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, on Wed., Jan. 15, at 7 p.m.

• **DAN SZCZESNY** talks about *The Adventures of Buffalo and Tough Cookie* on Sat., Jan. 18, at the Derry Public Library, 64 E. Broadway, Derry, at 1 p.m.; at the Amherst Public Library, 14 Main St., Amherst, on Tues., April 8, at 7 p.m.; at the Griffin Free Library, 22 Hooksett Road, Auburn, at 6:30 p.m.

• **LYNN LYONS** talks about *Anxious Kids, Anxious Parents* at Gibson's Bookstore, 45 S. Main St., Concord, on Mon., Jan. 23, at 7 p.m. Call 224-0562, visit gibsonsbookstore.com.

Lectures and discussions

• **EXOTIC DESTINATIONS LECTURE SERIES** at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, through January. Randy Pierce presents "Reaching Our Peak Potential" on Thurs., Jan. 2, at 7 p.m. (became blind after college, went on to hike NH's 48 4,000-footers and get inducted in Pro Football Hall of Fame); cyclist Denis Beaudry presents his adventures biking around the world on Thurs., Jan. 9, at 7 p.m.; Bryan and Linda Higgs present a program on Machu Picchu on Thurs., Jan. 16, at 7 p.m.; Peter Christoph presents adventures hiking Mt. Kilimanjaro on Thurs., Jan. 23, at 7 p.m.; and Marina Forbes presents "An Insider's Guide to Russia Today" on Thurs., Jan. 30, at 7 p.m. Registration not required. Visit nashualibrary.org/directions.htm, email carol.eyman@nashualibrary.org, call 589-4610. All are free events.

Poetry

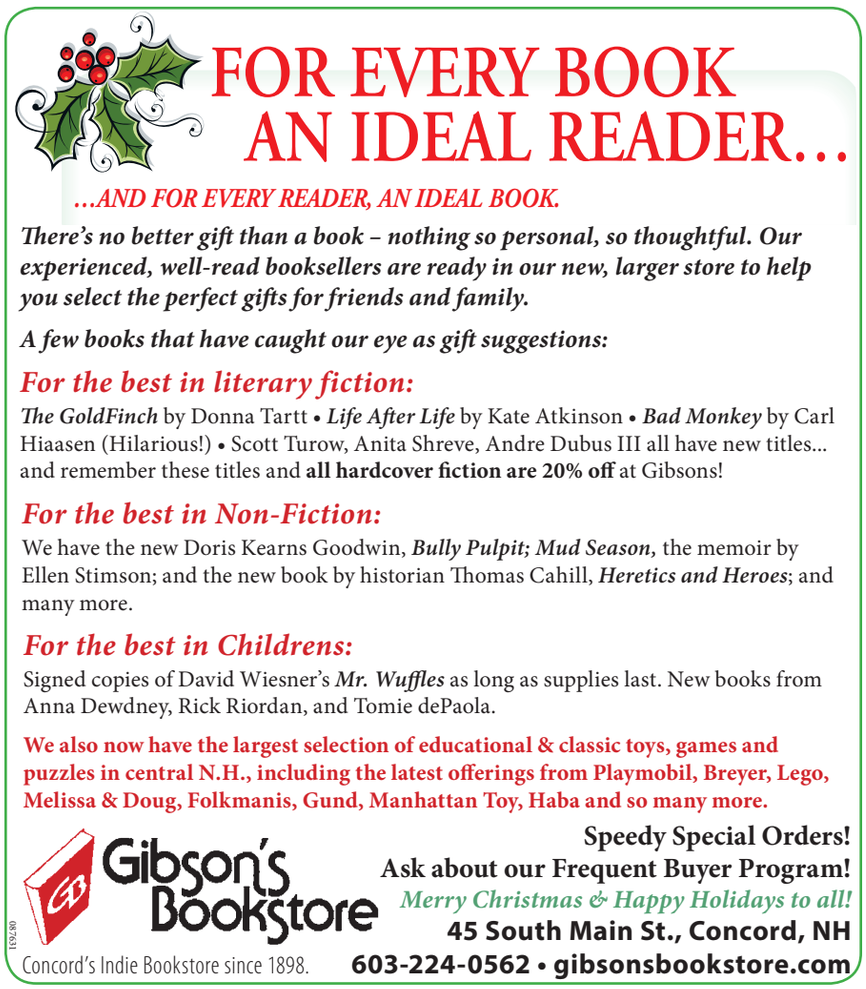
• **POETRY SOCIETY OF NH** meets on the third Wed. of each month at 7 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore for a poetry reading followed by an open mike hosted by Don Kimball. All are welcome; come to listen or to read.

• **HYLA BROOK READING SERIES** is held at the Bean-Towne Coffee House & Café at 201 Route 111 in Hampstead (beantownecoffee.com) in winter, and at Robert Frost Farm at 122 Rockingham Road in Derry in the spring and summer (http://robertfrostfarm.org). Free









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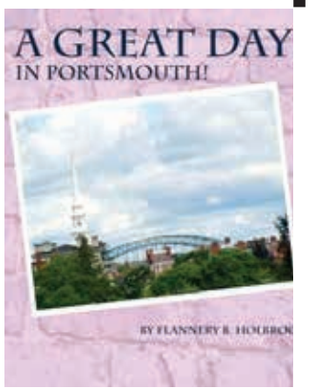
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Book Report



• **For writers suffering vacant press:** Vacantpress.com, a website that "exists to provide authors, writers and essayists a place to have their work published," is calling out for submissions of original fiction, nonfiction, essays and articles. Vacant Press founder and editor Rory Cooper explained in an email that the site seeks to differ from both blog- and traditionally-styled print publications through its distinct web style. (Website owners will also take no ownership of the work). The website, she said, is a "no-frills" method of publication, but she hopes it provides motivation for writers looking to get their work written.

"As a lazy writer myself, I know how difficult it can be to find the motivation to begin a story, let alone submit one for publication," said Cooper, a UNH grad. "I set out to create Vacant not only to offer exposure to possibly unknown writers, but also to offer motivation to those who love to write but have a hard time getting started. … I believe there are talented writers out there who are not taking full advantage of their skills." Interested authors and writers can learn more about it at vacantpress.com and twitter.com/vacantpress or by emailing Cooper at editor@vacantpress.com. Accepted works will be formatted into PDF downloads that follow standard paperback dimensions.

• **A great day!** Flannery B. Holbrook recently wrote and published *A Great Day in Portsmouth!* through RiverRun Bookstore/Piscatqua Press. Hers is a children's book featuring photos and images of Portsmouth's landmarks, like North Church, Prescott Park and Cere's Street Bakery. Visit piscataquapress.com/great-day for more information.

• **OK, so there are only a few more days left:** But there's still time to donate to the Barnes & Noble Book Drive, which this year benefits the Manchester School District. Look at the displays at the front of the store at 1741 S. Willow St. for a "wish list" of books, in addition to suggested items for local schools. The holiday drive lasts through Dec. 24.

• **An official grand opening event:** Village Comics (196 Route 101, Bedford, villagecomics.net, 471-3931) has been open for a few months now, but the comic book store is only just celebrating at an event this Saturday, Dec. 21, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Now-national celebrity Josh Logan will be signing $15 prints at the event designed by local artist Jason Casey. There will also be refreshments, sales, a raffle and a gallery featuring work by local artists. — *Kelly Sennott*

and open to the public. An open mike follows the readings. For info, email Robert Crawford at bobik9@aol.com.

• **HYLA BROOK POETS WORKSHOPS** meet on the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. at the Coffee Factory in Derry. For info, contact Robert Crawford at bobik9@aol.com.

• **SLAM FREE OR DIE** at Milly's Tavern, 500 Commercial St., Manchester, 858-3286, includes a poetry open-mike session. Doors open and signups start at 7 p.m., open mike begins around 8 p.m., with featured poets and slams following the open mike. $3 cover charge. Email SlamFreeorDie@gmail.com or call 858-3286.

• **POETS JAM FACTORY** Jam your poetry to live music every Wed. 7:30-10 p.m. at Raxx Billiards, 1211 Elm St., Manchester, ages 18+.

Writers' groups

• **MEMOIR WRITING CLASS** ongoing, taught by Ann Perkins, on Fridays, 10-11:30 a.m. in the Ben Franklin Store on Freetown Road in Raymond. Admission is $10 per class per student. Call 382-5908. Advance registration requested.

• **NHWP BOOK CLUB FOR WRITERS** is a chance for writers to get together four times a year for informal discussions of classic and contemporary literature from a writer's perspective, at various locations around the state. See nhwritersproject.org for meetings in the Upper Valley, Portsmouth and other sites.

• **THE BLANK PAGE** writers' group for all levels meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 in the third-floor conference room at Goffstown Public Library. All are welcome. Call 497-2102 for details.

• **CHRISTIAN WRITERS GUILD** has a Merrimack Valley Word Weavers club that meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 9 p.m. above Bonhoeffer's Café & Espresso at 8 Franklin St., Nashua. First-timers are encouraged to attend an orientation class at 6 p.m. For info, contact Clarice James at 578-1860 or wordweaversnashuanh@comcast.net. See www.christianwritersguild.com/word-weavers.

• **CONCORD WRITERS' GROUP** meets first and third Saturdays at 10 a.m. in the Shakespeare Room of the Concord Public Library. Open to writers of all levels and genres. For more info, contact Chris at clweeden@comcast.net.

• **WRITERS' NIGHT OUT** is hosted by NH Writers Project on the first Monday of each month. Seacoast: Common Man, 96 State St., Portsmouth. Central region: The Barley House, 132 N. Main St., Concord. Upper Valley: Salt Hill Pub, 2 S. Park St., Lebanon. No need to RSVP.

• **THE WRITER'S BLOCK** meets every Saturday at the Hollis Social Library, 2 Monument Square, Hollis, 465-7721, hollislibrary.org, in the Library Meeting Room, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Writers meet every Saturday morning for inspiration and support.

• **WRITERS UNITED** meets each Friday evening at the Milford Toadstool. Area authors of all genres are invited to share, critique and explore the craft of writing. Space is limited; for details call Tammy at the bookshop or email tammyattoadstool@aol.com.

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The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13)

The world's slowest adaptation of a 300-page book inches forward with dwarves, wizards, a hobbit, etc., in *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug,* which will probably be known as "the one that finally gets to the dragon."



The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug

When last we left Bilbo (Martin Freeman) and his dwarf buddies, they had just been rescued by eagles, been flown to the top of a big rock, been shown the Lonely Mountain (their destination in this three-movie quest) and left the audience wondering why the eagles didn't just fly them all the way the heck to where they were going. Well, they didn't — maybe eagles charge by the mile or something — so back we go to the hike through Middle-earth. Bilbo, you'll remember, has joined would-be dwarf-king Thorin (Richard Armitage) and assorted other dwarves in a quest to take back their ancestral homeland, the Lonely Mountain. The Lonely Mountain was captured by a big, fire-breathing dragon named Smaug (a motion-capture Benedict Cumberbatch), who still lives there, killing time by rolling around in massive piles of gold (hey, who wouldn't?). Also, old battles and new power struggles have a group of orcs following the dwarves as they head to the mountain.

In this movie, a tussle with some elves as the dwarves pass through a creepy forest also leads them to pick up two protectors — Legolas (Orlando Bloom) and Tauriel (Evangline Lilly), two elves who feel they need to help the dwarves because of an encroaching evil. They also have some tortured, forbidden longing between them, which seems to be there for the purposes of having a few characters with easily understandable motivations. Also in that vein, we meet Girion (Luke Evans), a human living in Lake-town, which is literally a town on the lake near Lonely Mountain. When he figures out who the dwarves are, he realizes that they are literally going to poke the dragon who is likely to rain fire down on the town where he and his children live.

And back to the issue of Encroaching Evil — *The Hobbit*, you'll recall, is a prequel to the *Lord of the Rings* books — wizard Gandalf (Ian McKellan) spends most of his time in this movie off on his own investigating the rise of a powerful enemy.

Here's my major beef with this movie, and it isn't even the nearly three-hour runtime: stakes. What are the stakes in this movie? There are so many magical creatures. There is so much backstory and "meanwhile" story and "this may be important much later" story jammed in every possible crevice, like a kid stuffing her face with Goldfish crackers, that the story starts to make *Game of Thrones* look streamlined. But all this storytelling stuff, all these characters with names like Ikea furniture, don't feel like rich texture, like world-building. They feel like clutter, clutter getting in the way of my caring about the central thing I'm supposed to care about here. That thing? Beats me. From the opening sceen of the first *Hobbit* and the *Lord of the Rings* movies, I already have a good sense of who lives and generally how things shake out for Bilbo. I can guess, based on being a person who has seen movies and TV before this, that the entire cast isn't going to die, *Hamlet*-style, at the end of this movie, because somebody needs to be around for the next movie. I have nothing to root for in this movie other than seeing the dragon.

And that's what this movie boiled down to for me: moments (not nearly enough) when just the thing happening on screen (not its context in the story or — ha — its emotional weight) was fun enough to hold my attention. So, I liked the dragon — sure, it's a pretty CGI-ish CGI dragon, but it's still a dragon. I liked Lake-town. It was a visually interesting city, even if its "the people are discontented" political backstory felt like so much "meh." I liked the character of Tauriel — a Peter Jackson addition because, I'm guessing, someone pointed out it might be good to have one other significant female character in addition to Cate Blanchett. She was a spiffy fighter and while I think a good die-off of characters mid-movie would have been helpful in narrowing the field, I didn't mind that one of the additions was her. And there are some sequences — an escape via barrel wherein the dwarves are bobbing down a rushing river while also fighting orcs and elves — that, while cartoony in the cheesiest ways, do still have elements of fun.

That scene in particular pointed out why serious devotees of this series might want to spring for the 3-D or even the high frame rate version of the movie. I saw the film in regular 2-D and while I appreciated not dealing with the headache-causing visuals of the fancier versions, the movie overall felt less spectacular. There was an almost grainy quality and, during effects-heavy action scenes, an added layer of fakeness.

Parts of *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug* are fine, but not enough of the movie has the energy to carry its bloated story and cast. **C+**

Rated PG-13 for extended sequences of intense fantasy action violence, and frightening images. Directed by Peter Jackson with a screenplay by Fran Walsh & Philippa Boyens & Peter Jackson & Guillermo Del Toro (from the book by J.R.R. Tolkien), The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug *is two hours and 41 minutes long and is distributed by Warner Bros.*

Nebraska (R)

A father and son hit the road seeking a probably imaginary fortune in *Nebraska*, a smart and lovely family drama directed by Alexander Payne.

Payne is best known for movies — *The Descendants*, *Sideways*, *About Schmidt*, *Election* — where he is also the screenplay's author. Though he didn't write this movie, it definitely has the feel of an Alexander Payne film, from the roadtrip aspect to the wry examination of difficult relationships.

In this case, everybody seems to have a difficult relationship with Woody Grant (Bruce Dern). Suffering from physical maladies (some of which were clearly brought on by a lifetime of too much drinking) and unspecified mental symptoms that suggest dementia, Woody has become convinced that he has won a million dollars and needs to go to Nebraska to pick it up. Even though he lives in Billings, Montana, Woody is regularly found walking on the side of the road, headed for Lincoln. His wife, Kate (June Squibb), is fed up with his stubbornness and his problems — as the movie unfurls, we learn that theirs has not been a particularly happy marriage. She has convinced her oldest son, Russ (Bob Odenkirk), to help her look for a nursing home for Woody, but youngest son David (Will Forte) is not so sure.

Actually, David doesn't seem so sure about anything in life. We see his formerly live-in, maybe ex, girlfriend (Missy Dotty) drop by his apartment to give him back the suitcases she used to move out. He asks if they can get back together but she seems exasperated — let's get married or break up or make some decision about our lives, she says. But David is just as stuck and unsure about what to do with this relationship as he is with what to do about his father.

Woody's attempts to walk across the plains continue, so David decides to drive Woody to Lincoln himself. Sure, the letter claiming Woody is a millionaire is clearly a scam — specifically, a gimmick to get Woody to buy magazines — but David seems happy for the time away, even if it does mean days trapped in a car with the grumpy Woody.

Like many a Payne roadtrip, the Nebraska journey takes a few unexpected detours. The pair ends up in Woody's old hometown, tiny Hawthorne, Neb., where Woody's "winfall" soon becomes the talk of the town.

Nebraska is entirely in black and white — a visual effect that gives the movie a more intimate feel. Like so many Payne movies, non-romantic relationships and the unresolvable difficulties therein are really the focus here and the look of the film somehow makes the story feel that much more "real" and less Hollywood. OK, so maybe the black and white also allows the plains of the upper Midwest (Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota and Nebraska) to look beautiful but still slightly forlorn and maybe it also helps to highlight a general sense of loneliness. It's maybe a little gimmicky but it works.

The story itself is not particularly complex, but it is beautiful in its simplicity and

REVIEWlets

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The Book Thief **(PG-13)**
Geoffrey Rush, Emily Watson. This adaptation of the book by Markus Zusak tells the story of a young girl who moves in with a new foster family in late 1930s Germany. Lovely looking and well-cast, the movie itself plods along. **B-**

Frozen **(PG)**
Kristen Bell, Josh Gad. Disney gets two princesses in one movie in this nothing-special but nothing-terribly-wrong retelling of "The Snow Queen," which also features the voice of Idina Menzel. **B-**

Catching Fire* **(PG-13)
Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson. Plus Liam Hemsworth, Elizabeth Banks, Woody Harrelson in this adaptation of part two of Suzanne Collins' saga. **B**

Out of the Furnace **(R)**
Christian Bale, Casey Affleck. Also starring Woody Harrelson, Sam Shepard, Willem Dafoe and Forest Whitaker — all looking very intense and possibly lost in this vague drama/action movie about, I don't know, violence or something. **C-**

aided by some truly terrific performances. Dern really knows how to make a meal of these men-in-their-twilight performances. He is able to give Woody humanity in moments without ever really softening the crusty character. Forte, known most for *Saturday Night Live* (and his MacGruber character's movie) and for being a funny-guy supporting character in assorted movies and TV shows, shines here. He gives David the perfect balance of a sense of humor (he recognizes the absurdity of the Lincoln trip even though he suggests it) and a sense that he is flailing and actually sort of looking to his long-unhelpful father for some help.

And then there's Squibb, a character actor who I probably know best for her brief role in *About Schmidt.* She does a masterful job of giving us one kind of character — hen-peck-y wife — and then turning her into something else, the more we know about her relationship with Woody. When Oscar voters consider her for supporting actress, they'll likely be thinking of one scene in particular where she runs through Hawthorne history with gossipy glee. (The Golden Globes have already given Squibb along with Dern (lead actor), Payne (director), Nelson (screenplay) and the movie itself nominations.)

Nebraska is a perfect little short story of a movie, made all the more enjoyable by top-notch, yet delightfully unfussy, performances. **A**

Rated R for some language. Directed by Alexander Payne and written by Bob Nelson, Nebraska *is an hour and 54 minutes long and is distributed by Paramount Pictures.*

All Is Lost (PG-13)

Robert Redford works on his boat in *All Is Lost*, a movie I actually liked more than I expected to but basically am going to unfairly consign to the bins of "meh."

I say "unfairly" because the movie is built entirely on Robert Redford, playing a character called only "Our Man," who is trying very hard not to sink and drown in the Indian Ocean. Redford, the sole soul on a larege sailboat in the middle of a lonely ocean, is, you know, "doing acting" all over the place here, and there is something very showy and off-putting to me in the way he does the actory business he's been doing for the last couple of movies.

And that, that anti-Redford prejudice on my part, is the unfairness that colored my experience with this movie, so if you are not similarly afflicted, you can take that part of this review with a grain of salt.

The movie begins with voice-over narration of a letter Redford's character has written to some unspecified loved ones wherein he tells them he loves them, apologizes for not being as good a something — husband? father? — as they deserved and explains that he fought to survive until the end but now "all is lost." Then, we jump back in time to eight days earlier, when Redford's nautical troubles began. He awakens to find that a lost shipping container has crashed into his ship and water is now pouring through the hole it created. Neither the hole nor the water is as much of a problem, however, as the fact that Redford's communication and navigation equipment has been damaged. Not sure of where he is and unable to call for help, Redford sets about patching the hole, getting rid of the water and trying to salvage the equipment. Then a storm comes along and tosses the boat around, causing even more damage.

Every few minutes, things get worse for Redford and we watch him try to attack the problem — we see how he seals the hole, watch him figure out how to use a sextant, learn a handy method for producing fresh water and see him attempt to fish. Some of it's interesting (his method for creating fresh water through condensation is a nifty thing to remember if I ever take a cruise); some of it is had me rethinking my stance on televised golf (people in khakis walking versus Redford doing stuff to his sails — it's a tough competition but I think the walking is just thismuch more interesting).

I understand, intellectually, that *All Is Lost* is not that much different from *Gravity* — in both movies, a person is left to struggle for survival in a situation where the environment (the ocean, space) is most likely to kill them. And maybe *Gravity* relies a little too much on its wow-inducing CGI, its likeable movie stars and sentimentality. But maybe this kind of movie needs a little of that. The difference between *All Is Lost* and *Gravity* is the difference between kale and nacho kale chips — the cheese adds balance.

I will say that I like that Our Man is whoever we want him to be, with only a few hints — a card that he finds but declines to open, some aging-hippie jewelry, the tone of the opening narration — about the kind of person he is and what he's doing out in the Indian Ocean alone. And, while the lack of dialogue means that we never make quite the same emotional connection that we do, easily, with Sandra Bullock's character in *Gravity*, I also like that we avoid some of the pitfalls of her chatter. I like that we see rather than have to hear about Redford's moments of despair. I don't know that I could take it if, *Life of Pi*-style, he started shouting at God while he slowly turned into crispy pancetta as he floated, adrift, from one emergency to the next.

All Is Lost is a movie resting on one performance, one performance that for me just didn't have the oomph or the magnetism to keep me from looking at my watch. **B-**

Rated PG-13 for brief strong language. Written and directed by J.C. Chandor, All Is Lost *is an hour and 46 minutes long and distributed by Roadside Attractions.*

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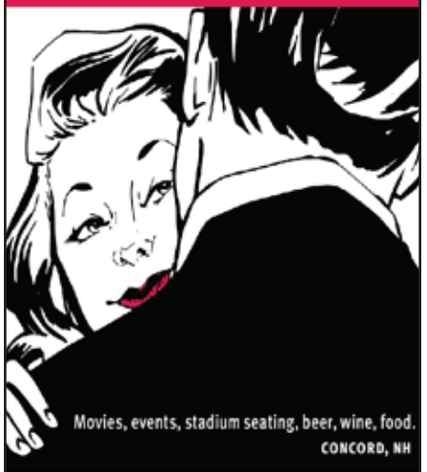
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MOVIES OUTSIDE THE CINEPLEX

RED RIVER THEATRES

11 S. Main St., Concord, redrivertheatres.org, 224-4600

• ***Dallas Buyers Club*** (R, 2013) Thurs., Dec. 19, at 2:05, 5:30 & 8 p.m.

• ***Muscle Shoals*** (PG, 2013) Thurs., Dec. 19, at 2:10 & 7 p.m.

• ***Philomena*** (PG-13, 2013) Thurs., Dec. 19, at 2, 5:25 & 7:45 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 20, at 1:20, 3:40, 6:10 & 8:20 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 21, at 1:20, 3:40, 6:10 & 8:20 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 22, at 1:20, 3:40, & 6:10 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 23, at 2:05, 5:25 & 7:45 p.m.; Tues., Dec. 24, at 2:05 p.m.; Wed., Dec. 25, at 5:25 & 7:45 p.m.; & Thurs., Dec. 26, at 2:05, 5:25 & 7:45 p.m.

• ***Nebraska*** (R, 2013) on Fri., Dec. 20, at 1, 3:30 6 & 8:30 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 21, at 1, 3:30, 6 & 8:30 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 22, at 1, 3:30 & 6 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 23, at 2, 5:30 & 8 p.m.; Tues., Dec. 24, at 2 p.m.; Wed., Dec. 25, at 5:30 & 8 p.m.; & Thurs., Dec. 26, at 2, 5:30 & 8 p.m.

• ***Some Velvet Morning*** (NR, 2013) on Fri., Dec. 20, at 2, 5:30 & 7:15 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 21, at 2, 5:30 & 7:15 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 22, at 2 & 5:30 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 23, at 2:10, 5:40 & 7:15 p.m.; Tues., Dec. 24, at 2:10 p.m.; Wed., Dec. 25, at 5:40 & 7:15 p.m.; & Thurs., Dec. 26, at 2:10, 5:40 & 7:15 p.m.

• ***The Band Wagon*** (1953) on Tues., Dec. 31, at 8 p.m.

WILTON TOWN HALL

40 Main St. in Wilton, 654-3456, wiltontownhalltheatre.com

• ***Philomena*** (PG-13, 2013) Thurs., Dec. 19, at 7:30 p.m.

• ***Last Vegas*** (PG-13, 2013) Thurs., Dec. 19, through Thurs., Dec. 26, at 7:30 p.m. Additional screening on Sun., Dec. 22, at 2 p.m. No screening on Tues., Dec. 24.

• ***Saving Mr. Banks*** (PG-13, 2013) Fri., Dec. 20, through Thurs., Dec. 26, at 7:30 p.m. Additional screening on Sun., Dec. 22, at 2 p.m. No screening on Tues., Dec. 24.

• ***The Bishop's Wife*** (1947) on Sat., Dec. 21, at 4:30 p.m.

• ***It's a Wonderful Life*** (1947) on Sun., Dec. 22, at 4:30 p.m.

CAPITOL CENTER FOR THE ARTS

44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com

• ***Swan Lake*** National Theatre Live on Sun., Jan. 5, at 2 p.m.

MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY

405 Pine St., Manchester, 624-6550, manchester.lib.nh.us

• ***After Earth*** (PG-13, 2013) on Wed., Jan. 8, at 1 p.m.

• ***Little Shop of Horrors*** (PG-13, 1986) on Wed., Jan. 15, at 1 p.m.

WEST BRANCH COMMUNITY LIBRARY

76 N. Main St., Manchester, 624-6560, manchester.lib.nh.us

• ***The Lone Ranger*** (PG-13, 2013) on Fri., Dec. 20, at 3 p.m.

• ***Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters*** (PG, 2013) on Fri., Dec. 27, at 3 p.m.

• ***Super Buddies*** (G, 2013) on Fri., Jan. 3, at 3 p.m.

• ***Despicable Me 2*** (PG, 2013) on Fri., Jan. 10, at 3 p.m.

BEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford, 472-3023, bedfordonline.com, free movie at 2 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month, presented through Parks & Recreation

• ***Harry and Tonto*** (R, 1974) on Sun., Jan. 19, at 2 p.m.

CONCORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

45 Green St., Concord, 230-3682, onconcord.com/library

• ***The Holiday*** (PG-13, 2006) on Thurs., Dec. 19, at 6:30 p.m.

NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY

NPL Theater, 2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4600, nashualibrary.org. Call 589-4646 for a movie schedule. Seating is limited. Food and drink are not permitted. Cinema Cabaret screens adult films on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. and the family film series screens on Saturdays at 2 p.m. The two series run from October to May.

• ***Wreck It Ralph*** (PG, 2012) on Sat., Dec. 21, at 2 p.m.

• ***Mary Poppins*** (1964) on Sat., Dec. 28, at 2 p.m.

• ***Bedknobs and Broomsticks*** (G, 1971) on Sat., Jan. 4, at 2 p.m.

• ***Despicable Me 2*** (PG, 2013) on Sat., Jan. 11, at 2 p.m.

• ***Enchanted*** (PG, 2007) on Sat., Jan. 18, at 2 p.m.

• ***Hercules*** (G, 1997) on Sat., Jan. 25, at 2 p.m.

DERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY

64 E. Broadway, Derry

• ***Santa Claus is Coming to Town*** (1970) on Sat., Dec. 21, at 1 p.m.

RODGERS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

194 Derry Road, Route 102, Hudson, rodgerslibrary.org. 886-6030

• ***Despicable Me 2*** (PG, 2013) on Sat., Dec. 21, at 1 p.m.

• **80's Movie Marathon** on Thurs., Jan. 9, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

• **Teen Movie Night** on Mon., Jan. 27, at 6 p.m.

GOFFSTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY

2 High St., 497-2102, goffstownlibrary.com

• ***Despicable Me 2*** (PG, 2013) on Fri., Dec. 27, at 11 a.m.

AMHERST TOWN LIBRARY

14 Main St., Amherst, 673-2288, amherst.lib.nh.us

• **Children's Movie Night** on Thurs., Jan. 2, at 2 p.m.

THE MUSIC HALL

28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusichall.org, Some films are screened at Music Hall Loft, 131 Congress St.

• ***Deceptive Practice*** (NR, 2012) on Fri., Dec. 20, at 7 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 21, at 3 p.m.; & Sat., Dec. 21, at 7 p.m.

• ***Opera Connection: Falstaff*** on Sun., Dec. 22, at 10:30 a.m. & noon

• ***The Spectacular Now*** (R, 2013) on Sun., Dec. 22, at 7 p.m., & Thurs., Dec. 26, at 7 p.m.

• ***All is Lost*** (PG-13, 2013) on Fri., Dec. 27, at 7 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 29, at 3 & 7 p.m.; Wed., Jan. 1, at 7 p.m.; & Thurs., Jan. 1, at 7 p.m.



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THE ROUND UP

Local music news & events

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Dry wit:** Twitter was created for people like Matt Donaher, a.k.a **Matt D**. The Manchester comedian is a master of the one-liner, combining dry neuroticism — think Larry David or Woody Allen — with an absurdist's touch. He doesn't need much more than 140 characters to get a laugh; check out @SimplyMattD for proof. He headlines a recently launched weekly comedy event in Dover. See Matt D. on Thursday, Dec. 19, at 9 p.m. at Cara Irish Pub, 11 Fourth St., Dover. See awesoment.com for more.

• **Truffle & tinsel:** Donations to support the Nashua Children's Home are requested when **Electric Truffle** performs its annual holiday benefit show in Milford. The focus this year shifts from national (Toys for Tots in 2012) to local, and you can show your holiday giving spirit in with cash, check or Walmart gift cards in $25 denominations, and enjoy a Seacoast jam band favorite. See Electric Truffle on Friday, Dec. 20, at 9 p.m. at Pasta Loft, 241 Union Square, Milford. See gerardtruffle.com for more.

• **Creole Christmas:** The **Preservation Hall Jazz Band** are foremost ambassadors of New Orleans music, touring much of the year. An attempt begun in 1961 to revive traditional New Orleans jazz became an institution. The annual holiday show is also a tradition, with songs like "Blue Christmas" and "Winter Wonderland" getting the Crescent City treatment. See Preservation Hall Jazz Band on Saturday, Dec. 21, at 8 p.m. at The Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth. Tickets are $34-$40 at themusichall.org.

• **Variety show:** Rootsy blues rockers **The River Birds** host an afternoon show that includes music, poetry, authors reading from their works and film. This month's Sunday Stomp begins with the Christmas episode of British sitcom *Father Ted*. Poet Cara Losier Chanoine, author Dan Szczesny (*The Adventures of Buffalo & Tough Cookie*) and the hard-rocking Bunker Busters also appear. Attend Sunday Stomp on Sunday, Dec. 22, at 3 p.m. at Shaskeen, 909 Elm St., Manchester. See http://on.fb.me/1bay3Yj.

• **Voice face time:** For those looking for another and different fix of local celebrity **Josh Logan**, who placed in the Final Dozen of NBC's talent show *The Voice*, the singer makes an appearance at a Manchester pub. It's a non–musical meet-and-greet affair, though Logan has two upcoming concerts on Dec. 29 & Dec. 30 at Manchester's Palace Theatre (palacetheatre.org). Attend Josh Logan Meet & Greet on Monday, Dec. 23, at 5 p.m. at British Beer Co., 1071 S. Willow St., Manchester. See joshloganonline.com.

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NITE

Holiday man

Harvey Reid and the magic of Christmas music

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com



Harvey Reid. Courtesy photo.

Few musicians embrace the holiday season with Harvey Reid's vigor. Since releasing his first Christmas album in 1984, the eclectic guitarist regularly spends most of December in pubs, churches and opera houses playing carols. For the past decade his wife, singer Joyce Anderson, has joined in. Even the couple's 5- and 8-year-old sons helped out on a couple songs last year.

"I can't resist playing holiday shows. They have a magic that is unstoppable," Reid said in a recent phone interview. "It's the time of year when music has the most power."

Parenthood caused him to pare down his schedule to just two New Hampshire holiday shows this year: Thursday, Dec. 19, at Four Corners Grille in New London, and Friday, Dec. 20, at Dover's First Parish Church.

Reid is a virtuoso of steel strings, a multi-instrumentalist working across a range of styles. But he smilingly calls what he does "unpopular music," adding, "I don't do Springsteen and the classics all year long." Christmas, he said, gives him a chance to play the hits … after a fashion.

"Christmas is the best example of the whole idea of what traditional music is," he said. "There is this body of music and people just *know* it … it's almost the only common music there is left. It evokes memories in people and takes them places. Scientists have measured it; it's like the smell of a turkey. It really triggers things in people."

Harvey Reid & Joyce Anderson Christmas Show

Thursday, Dec. 19, at 8 p.m. at Four Corners Grille, 40 Andover Road, New London
Friday, Dec. 20, at 7:30 p.m. at First Parish Church, 218 Central Ave., Dover
Find out more at woodpecker.com.

The fingerpicking master also enjoys the degree of difficulty posed by many holiday songs.

"It's hard music. A lot of it was written by real composers," he said. "If you've ever tried strumming campfire guitar, there are only about three Christmas songs that you can do. Some are quite a challenge to play musically."

The focus of the performances has evolved over time.

"My solo show used to be largely instrumental, but Joyce and I have been doing them for 10 years, and we do a lot of singing," he said.

The pair released the holiday record *Christmas Morning* in 2005, and performances draw from the album: "Joy to the World," "Angels We Have Heard On High," "We Three Kings" and the contemporary standard "Merry Christmas Baby."

In 2009, they wrote a technology-themed update of "The Twelve Days of Christmas," a satirical version with "a virus in my PC" substituted for "a partridge in a pear tree." It's quite funny and did pretty well on YouTube, but the song isn't part of their show.

"I did that on a whim … I don't usually clown around with music, especially at Christmas time," said Reid. "You need to be endlessly hilarious, like Christine Lavin, then you can make people happy. But when you have only one or two funny songs, it's dangerous."

Beyond that, Reid wants to honor the tradition he's become in fans' lives.

"A lot of people tell me it's part of their Christmas, they get the family together and they come see us play," he said. "I take it very seriously, it's a responsibility. The biggest compliment that I ever get is, I made them feel connected with the real spirit of Christmas. That is a pretty profound compliment."

It's the effect that brings him back year after year, no matter how complicated life gets.

"I don't want to go around swaggering … but we can do that to people. Music is a kind of magic, and Christmas music has a magical power. If you hit people just right, you can get inside their heads and tinker around in there. It's powerful stuff."

Cool Connection

Portsmouth band a hit on satellite radio

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

His band has a Stones-inspired name, Beatles mop-top haircuts and a song catalog brimming with pithy pop-punk jewels. Brad Marino of The Connection loves to brag about the band's colored vinyl 7-inch 45, complete with plastic insert and jukebox tag. In a world where the song is king, his Portsmouth quartet reigns as titans of the three-minute record, with rock legends like Steven Van Zandt and Andrew Loog Oldham praising them.

The biggest boost came from the E Street guitarist and satellite radio impresario; four times in one year, he named a Connection track as "Coolest Song In The World This Week." Oldham hosts a daily show on Little Steven's Underground Garage; he recently

The Connection

Hear them on the-connection.bandcamp.com or find them on Facebook for the latest news and upcoming shows.

spoke of "our favorites, The Connection" — cool kudos coming from the man who produced the band's namesake record for the Rolling Stones in 1967.

Through that association The Connection landed recent high-profile gigs with ex-Paul Revere & The Raiders singer Mark Lindsay and in Boston with the Flamin' Groovies — both are Underground Garage mainstays.

"At the shows, I lost track of all the people who came up and said they knew one of our songs," recalled Marino in a recent phone interview. "It's very cool. We aren't going to get played on real radio, but this is better because it's worldwide."

Marino and ex-Guts singer/guitarist Geoff Palmer form the songwriting nucleus, melding British Invasion rock and punk circa 1977. A newly released EP includes an original rave-up, "Don't Talk To My Baby," bookended by The Who's "Kids Are Alright" and "First Time," a nugget from UK proto punk band The Boys.

Attending Spaulding High School in Rochester in the late 1990s, Marino didn't have much use for contemporary bands like Nine Inch Nails.

"I remember never really liking much popular music outside of Green Day … when *Dookie* came out," he said. "But through them I discovered the Ramones, and that led to all the bands that influenced them, like the Stones, Beatles and Kinks. Once I heard that, I gravitated towards it."

He also discovered Boston's Real Kids, and in a sweet twist of fate, it turns out Kids founder John Felice is a Connection fan. Marino and Palmer met Felice through an ex-drummer.

"Me and Geoff went down to his apartment and hung out … we got to know him [and] we're actually writing a couple of songs with him."



The Connection. Courtesy photo.

Felice promised them a spot on the bill if his on again/off again group booked a show. On Dec. 28, they'll open for the Real Kids and Nervous Eaters, another big name from the Rat era, at Cambridge's Middle East Club. "Real Kids are one of those bands we've been looking up to forever," said Marino.

Gigs closer to home happen in January, though Marino can't provide specifics until contracts are signed. In the meantime, the group continues to record at a pace that would make Shel Talmy smile. Their second LP, *Let It Rock*, came out in the summer, followed by the *First Time* EP and the digital single "Christmas Time Again." A one-off EP with Marino, Palmer and Portland rocker Kurt Baker performing as The New Trocaderos was released Dec. 11.

Dean Baltulonis, producer and engineer for The Hold Steady, Jesse Malin, Bouncing Souls and others, has worked on several of the band's projects and had booked them at his Dover live music hub Sonny's Tavern. He counts himself as a fan.

"The thing that makes the Connection stand out in my eyes is that they have nailed the craft of songwriting," wrote Baltulonis in a recent email. "Every time I work with them I have their songs stuck in my head for days."

Nightlife

Music, Comedy & Parties

• **PISCATAQUA RIVER BRASS** at Discover Portsmouth (10 Middle St., Portsmouth 436-8433) on Thu., Dec. 19 at 7. Discover Thursdays series – tickets $10/Portsmouth Historical Society members/ $12 non-members.

• **HARVEY REID & JOYCE ANDERSON HOLIDAY CONCERT** at Four Corners Grille (40 Andover Rd., New London 526-6899) on Thu., Dec. 19 at 8. Husband and wife duo return for a holiday concert tradition - one of two New Hamsphire shows scheduled for 2013.

• **HARVEY REID & JOYCE ANDERSON HOLIDAY CONCERT** at First Parish Church (218 Central Ave, Dover 742-5664) on Fri., Dec. 20 at 8. Husband and wife duo return for a holiday concert tradition - one of two New Hamsphire shows scheduled for 2013.

• **COUNTRY MUSIC NIGHT WITH DJ RAZZ** at Rockingham Ballroom (22 Ash Swamp Road, Newmarket 659-441) on Fri., Dec. 20 at 7:30. $10 Come and kick up your heels to an all request country dance night at the Rockingham Ballroom with DJ Ted Razz. You name it, he'll play it!

• **ED GERHARD** at UU Church (292 State St., Portsmouth 664-7200) on Sat., Dec. 21 at 7:30. $25 - Award-winning guitarist presents his popular Annual Christmas Guitar Concert, now in its 31st year.

• **NICE & NAUGHTY** at Spireside Coffeehouse (UCC, 6 Stark Hwy. N, Dunbarton 774-4601) on Sat., Dec. 21 at 7:30. $5/suggested donation Nice & Naughty, a talented duo whose original music speaks to all aspects of everyday life, from whimsical to poignant, serious to silly.

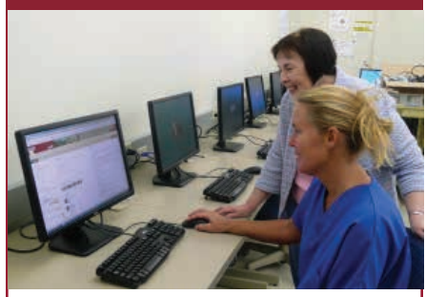
• **JOSH LOGAN MEET & GREET** at British Beer Company (1071 S. Willow St., Manchester 232-0677) on Mon., Dec. 23 at 5. Josh Logan from the Voice will sign autographs and pose for fan pictures from 5-7 pm. Josh will also be playing at the Palace Theatre December 29 & 30th.

• **CHRISTMAS EVE OPEN HOUSE** at Queen City Ball-





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SOUND MACHINE

Comedian Michael Winslow performs at Cara Irish Pub's Chameleon Club on Saturday, December 28 at 8 p.m. Known as Sgt. Larvelle "Motor Mouth" Jones in the *Police Academy* series of movies, Winslow is a master of vocal gymnastics, with a voice that can imitate over 10,000 sound effects. Whether he's recreating the frenzy of a Hendrix guitar solo, or the roar of a jet plane, his talent is truly remarkable and his versatility admirable and enjoyable for all ages. Tickets $20 at awesomeent.com/events. 11 Fourth St., Dover 343-4390.

room (21 Dow St (2nd floor), Manchester 622-1500) on Tue., Dec. 24 at 6. Savor a sweet treat and some hot mulled cider, while dancing to holiday tunes. Singles and couples of all levels welcome. Beginners welcome. Free.

• **LEGENDS: THE MUSIC OF JUDY GARLAND** at Players' Ring Theater (105 Marcy St., Portsmouth 436-8123) on Fri., Dec. 27 & Sat., Dec. 28 at 8 and Sun., Dec. 29 at 2. $15 - Written and performed by Kelly Caufield and featuring many of Garland's most well known songs as well as a few surprises.

• **NOT A NEW YEAR'S BALLROOM DANCE PARTY** at Queen City Ballroom (21 Dow St (2nd floor), Manchester 622-1500) on Wed., Jan. 1 at 6. $15/person before 12/31 - Fine recorded mix of classic and contemporary music,finger food buffet and mimosa cocktails. All dance levels welcome.

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• **603 LOUNGE** 14 W. Hollis St., Nashua, 821-5260, Thursdays at 8 p.m.

• **ANTHONY'S PIER** Weirs Beach, 263 Lakeside Ave., Laconia, 366-5855, Thursdays at 5 p.m. w/Bobby Freedom

• **BEIJING & TOKYO** 61 S. Main St., Concord, 228-0888, Fridays and Saturdays at 9 p.m.

• **BRITISH BEER COMPANY** 1071 S. Willow St., Manchester 232-0677, Thursdays 9:30 p.m.

• **BUCCOS** 143 Main St., Kingston, 642-4999, Thursdays, from 7 to 10 p.m. w/ DJ Bob Fauci

• **CITY SPORTS GRILLE** 216 Maple St., Manchester, 625-9656, Thursdays at 9 p.m.

• **CHEN'S** 122 E. Broadway, Derry, 437-8338, Saturdays at 8:30 p.m.

• **CHEN YANG LI** 520 South St., Bow, 228-8508, Thursdays at 9 p.m.

• **CHOP SHOP PUB** 920 Lafayette Road, Seabrook, 760-7706, Wednesdays at 8 p.m. w/ Matty R.

• **DANIEL STREET TAVERN** 111 Daniel St., Portsmouth, 430-1011, Fridays and Sundays at 9 p.m.

• **DOVER BRICKHOUSE** 2 Orchard St., Dover, 749-3838, Sundays at 9 p.m.

• **ELEMENT LOUNGE** 1055 Elm St., Manchester, 627-2922, Sundays at 6 p.m. and Tuesdays at 8 p.m. with DJ Sharon.

• **FODY'S GREAT AMERICAN TAVERN** 9 Clinton St., Nashua, 577-9015, Tuesdays at 9 p.m.

• **GIUSEPPE'S** 312 DW Highway, Meredith, 279-3313, every other Thursday at 10 p.m.

• **THE HONEY POT** 920 Lafayette Road, Seabrook, 760-2013, Mondays and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. with The Wiz

• **JADE DRAGON LOUNGE** 515 DW Hwy., Merrimack Commons, 424-2280, Friday 8:30 p.m.

• **LAFAYETTE CLUB** Manchester, 623-9323, Thursdays at 9 p.m. w/ DJ Lance

• **MILANO'S SPORTS BAR** 1 Broad St., Nashua, Saturdays and Sundays at 8 p.m. w/ DJ Bernie D

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• **BLUE MERMAID** 409 the Hill, Portsmouth, 427-2583, Mondays 7-9 p.m.

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• **CHEERS** 17 Depot St., Concord, 228-0180, Fridays 9 p.m.

• **FODY'S TAVERN** Railroad Square, Nashua, Wednesdays 8 p.m.

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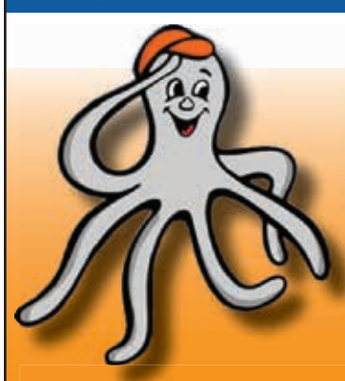
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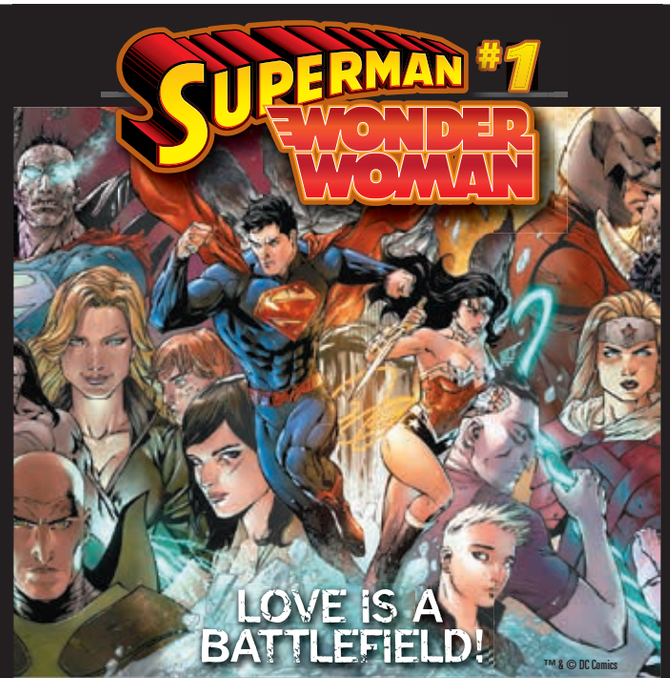
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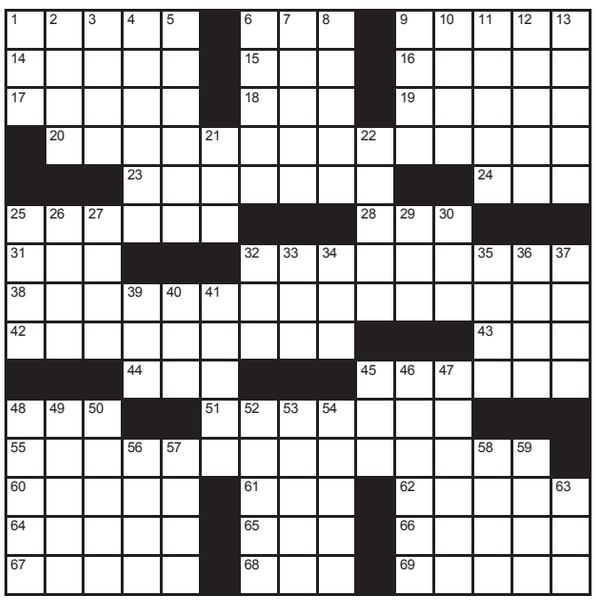
Pass that on over

Across

1. Problem addled rocker (1,4)
6. Alice Cooper 'Years __'
9. Fluttering vocal sound
14. What musicians want you to do to emotional song
15. Slade '__ Runaway'
16. Finnish Glamsters __ Rocks
17. Kind of men Village People were
18. 'Never Mind The Bollocks' closer
19. Swingers Asleep __ __ Wheel (2,3)
20. Montgomery Gentry 'What Do Ya ___' (5,5,4)
23. Slayer '__ In The Abyss'
24. 'Baby's On Fire' Brian
25. Our Lady Peace hit that fell on it's face?
28. Metallica 'Garage __'
31. Midnight Oil "The time __ come to say fair's fair"
32. Leño & Smash, e.g.
38. '03 Three Days Grace hit 'I Hate __ __ You' (10,5)
42. Thom Yorke band
43. Letters before an alias (abbr)
44. Two musicians
45. Bruce Hornsby '__ Ground'
48. New Edition's Bivins, for short
51. What 80s rocker might do to hair in 90s
55. Pre-'Goody Two Shoes' UK band (4,3,3,4)
60. "Just can't __ underwater" Panic! At The Disco
61. Some rockers get one after one too many drinks (abbr)
62. What van driver will do to wheel
64. '07 Alicia Keys smash (2,3)
65. Highway crash spot
66. Mika's 'Grace'
67. David Gilmour has a signature model (abbr)
68. Heavily sampled Bronx funksters
69. '09 Best New Artist Brit

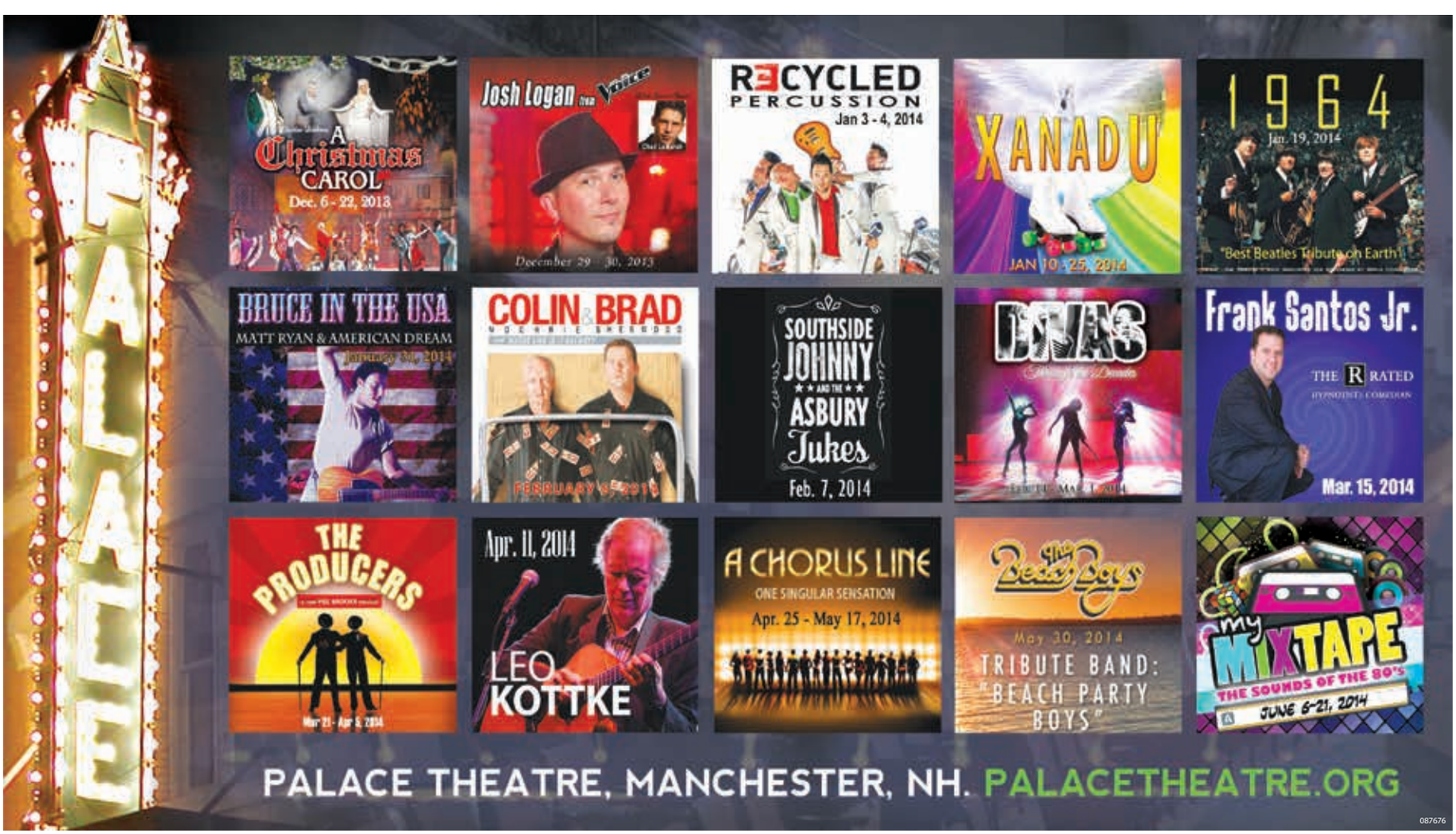
Down

1. 'Strong-__' Napalm Death
2. 'Bat Out Of Hell' __ Loaf
3. Madonna '__ Time You Break My Heart'
4. Grammy-winning Tool song
5. The Rolling __ Rock And Roll Circus
6. Band origin regions
7. Phish "There ain't no time to stash the __"
8. Boom Crash Opera '__ Skin'
9. Tom Hanks music movie '__ Thing You Do!'
10. 'Back For More' 80s rockers
11. "__ __ still of the night I hear the wolf howl, honey" (2,3)
12. Actress/singer Lindsay that had drug problems
13. Johnny Lang '__ __ Me' (3,2)
21. Bandleader Kyser
22. On drugs
25. Starred in Mask w/Eric Stoltz
26. Molten Santana/Miles song?
27. Utah Warped Tour band
29. 80s dance music singer Peeples
30. "Mr __ driver don't like the way I look" Lenny Kravitz
32. Warrant 'Sometimes __ Cries'
33. 80s 'When The Rain Begins To Fall' singer Zadora
34. Dave Matthews 'Under The Table __ Dreaming'
35. What crowd will do during climax
36. Rooney 'Daisy __'
37. Dickies guitarist Lee
39. Free a member
40. 3 Doors Down 'Here Without __'
41. 'Things Aren't So Beautiful Now' A __ For Every Heart
45. Repeated word in 'N Sync hit
46. Where Jewel is from
47. What band did to rehearsal space for 6 months
48. Where farm boys learn drums, perhaps
49. '77 Iggy Pop album (w/"The")
50. Little Big Town song about mist?
52. Fictitious singer that fronted The Cruisers
53. What shreddin' guitarist does
54. Queen 'Crazy Little __ Called Love'
56. 'You're The Only One' Maria
57. Albums want to turn __ __ profit (1,3)
58. Rock stars might be on it, in the UK
59. "You don't have to __ your body to thenight, Roxanne"
63. Guns N' Roses 'Catcher In The __'





Written By: Todd Santos



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SUN: 7:30AM–10PM • MON: 11AM–10PM • TUES & WED: 11AM–12 MIDNIGHT • THURS & FRI: 11AM–1AM • SAT: 9AM–1AM

088217

BRIDGET THE MIDGET

XXX ADULT FILM STAR & INTERNATIONAL CELEBRITY

APPEARING
DECEMBER
THURS, 19TH • FRI, 20TH
SATURDAY, 21ST

SHOWTIMES AT
11pm & 1am

THE GOLD CLUB
WORLD FAMOUS GENTLEMEN'S CLUBS
390 South river road | Bedford, NH | (603) 668-7444
WWW.THEGOLDCLUBS.COM

088268

Make a difference in a child's Christmas

TOYS FOR TOTS

Toys for Tots Fundraiser

Saturday, December 21st
With Problem Child (Ac/Dc Tribute Band)

Sunday Blues Jam
Christmas Party 3-7
with special guest Travis Colby

Every Friday | 7-11pm
Acoustic Open Mic Jam

New Years Eve Bash
with Common Knowledge

9am-Noon
Sunday Breakfast

VILLAGE TRESTLE
FOOD & DRINK
25 MAIN ST. GOFFSTOWN

2 for Tuesdays
Buy 1 Burger Get 1 Free
May be shared. Dine in Only.

25 Main St. Goffstown Village • villagetrestle.com • 497-8230

088139

Live music at local bars and restaurants

MUSIC THIS WEEK

Amherst
La Belle Winery
345 Route 101 672-9898

Auburn
Auburn Pitts
167 Rockingham Rd
622-6564

Barrington
Chip 'N Run Pub
550 Province Road 664-2030

Bedford
Bedford Village Inn
2 Olde Bedford Way
472-2001
Copper Door
15 Leavy Drive 488-2677
Shorty's Mexican Roadhouse
206 Route 101
488-5706
Starbucks
220 S. River Rd 263-0061

Belmont
El Jimador Mexican Restaurant
171 DW Highway 527-8122
Lakes Region Casino
1265 Laconia Rd. 267-7778
Lodge at Belmont
Route 106 877-872-2501
Top of the Town
88 Ladd Hill Rd 528-3244

Boscawen
Alan's
133 N. Main St. 753-6631

Bow
Chen Yang Li
520 South St. 228-8508

Bradford
Appleseed Restaurant
63 High St., 938-2100

Bristol
Back Room at Mill
2 Central St. 744-0405

Brookline
Cozy Tea Cart
104 Route 13
249-9111
Mad Hatter Bar & Grill
99 Route 13
672-1800

Concord
Barley House
132 N. Main, 228-6363
Granite Restaurant & Bar
96 Pleasant St. 227-9000
Hermanos
11 Hills Ave. 224-5669
Makris
354 Sheep Davis Rd
225-7665
Penuche's Ale House
6 Pleasant St. 228-9833
Pit Road Lounge
388 Loudon Rd 226-0533
Red Blazer
72 Manchester St. 224-4101
Tandy's Top Shelf
1 Eagle Square 856-7614
True Brew Barista
3 Bicentennial Square
225-2776

Contoocook
Contoocook Covered Bridge
Cedar St. 746-5191

Deerfield
Lazy Lion Café
4 North Road 463-7374

Derry
Coffee Factory
55 Crystal Ave 432-6006
Halligan Tavern
32 W. Broadway 965-3490
Sabatino's North
1 E. Broadway 432-7999
Steve-N-James Tavern
187 Rockingham Rd
434-0600

Dover
11th Frame Bar
887 B Central Ave. 742-9632
Asia
42 Third Street 742-9816
Barley Pub
328 Central Ave. 742-4226
Cara Irish Pub
11 Fourth St. 343-4390
Cartelli's
446 Central Ave. 750-4002
Dover Brick House
2 Orchard St. 749-3838
Fury's Publick House
1 Washington Street 617-3633
Jimmy's Sports Bar
15 Mechanic St. 740-4477
Kelley's Row
421 Central Ave. 750-7081
Loft at Strafford Farms
58 Route 108 743-3045
RJ's
83 Washington St.
Roger's Pizza
869 Central Ave. 742-9870
Sonny's Tavern
328 Central Ave 343-4332
Top of the Chop
One Orchard St. 740-0006

Epping
Holy Grail Food & Spirits
64 Main St. 679-9559

Epsom
Circle 9 Ranch
39 Windymere Dr. 736-9656

Exeter
Shooter's Pub
10 Columbus Ave. 772-3856

Gilford
Ellacoya Barn & Grille
2667 Lakeshore Rd 293-8700
Patrick's
18 Weirs Rd. 293-0841

Goffstown
Village Trestle
25 Main St. 497-8230
Wa Toy
611 Mast Rd 668-1088

Hampstead
Pasta Loft Brickhouse
220 East Main St 378-0092
Village Square
472 State St. 329-6879

Hampton
Boardwalk Inn
139 Ocean Blvd. 929-7400
Breakers By the Sea
409 Ocean Blvd 926-7702
La Bec Rouge
73 Ocean Blvd 926-5050
Old Salt
409 Lafayette Rd 926-8322
Ron's Landing
379 Ocean Blvd 929-2122
Wally's Pub
144 Ashworth Ave. 926-6954
Whales Tales
169 Ocean Blvd 967-4771

Hanover
Jesse's Tavern
224 Lebanon St 643-4111
Salt Hill Pub Hanover
7 Lebanon Street 676-7855

Henniker
Country Spirit
262 Maple Street 428-7007
Daniel's
Main St. 428-7621
Henniker Junction
24 Weare Rd. 428-8511
Pat's Peak Sled Pub
24 Flander's Road 888-728-7732

Hollis
Alpine Grove
19 S. Depot Road 882-9051

Hooksett
Asian Breeze
1328 Hooksett Rd 621-9298
New England's Tap House Grille
1292 Hooksett Rd. 782-5137
Pizza Man
River Road

Hudson
AJ's Sports Bar & Grill
11 Tracy Lane 718-1102
JD Chaser's
2B Burnham Rd 886-0792
Nan King Restaurant & Lounge
222 Central St. 882-1911
SoHo Asian Restaurant & Bar
49 Lowell Rd. 889-6889

Kingston
Bucco's Tavern
143 Main St. 642-4999
Kingston 1686 House Tavern
127 Main St. 642-3637

Laconia
Anthony's Pier
263 Lakeside Ave. 366-5855
Baja Beach Club @ China Bistro
89 Lake St. 524-0008
Broken Spoke Saloon
1072 Watson Rd 866-754-2526
Cactus Jack's
1182 Union Ave. 528-7800
Crazy Gringo
306 Lakeside Ave. 366-4411
Fratello's Lakes
799 Union Ave. 528-2022
Jazz Bar
290 Lakeside Ave. 366-9100
Margate Resort
76 Lake St. 524-5210
Naswa Resort
1086 Weirs Blvd. 366-4341
Paradise Beach Club
322 Lakeside Ave. 366-2665
Patio Garden Restaurant
Lakeside Ave.
Pitman's Freight Room
94 New Salem St. 527-0043
Tower Hill Tavern
264 Lakeside Ave. 366-9100
Weirs Beach Lobster Pound
72 Endicott St. 366-2255
Weirs Beach Smokehouse
Rt 3 Laconia 366-2400

Londonderry
Coach Stop Restaurant & Tavern
176 Mammoth Rd 437-2022
Stumble Inn Bar & Grill
20 Rockingham Road
432-3210
Twins Smoke Shop
128 Rockingham Rd
Whippersnappers
44 Nashua Rd # 13 434-2660

Loudon
Hungry Buffalo
58 New Hampshire 129
798-3737

Manchester
Breezeway Pub
14 Pearl St. 621-9111
British Beer Company
1071 S. Willow St. 232-0677

City Sports Grille
216 Maple St. 625-9656
CK's Grill
791 Second St 669-2868
Club 313
93 S. Maple St. 628-6813
Derryfield Country Club
625 Mammoth Road
623-2880
Don Quijote
333 Valley St. 792-1110
Drynk
20 Old Granite St. 641-2583
Element Lounge
1055 Elm St. 627-2922
Farm Bar & Grille
1181 Elm St. 641-3276
Fratello's
155 Dow Street 624-2022
Gaucho's Churrascaria
62 Lowell St. 669-9460
Hanover St. Chophouse
149 Hanover Street 644-2467
Ignite Bar & Grille
100 Hanover St. 494-6225
J. Dubs Coffee
1000 Elm St. 622-7944
Jade Dragon MHT
1087 Elm St. 669-5523
Jam Factory
1211 Elm St. 203-1458
Jokers
1279 South Willow Street
935-9947
Karma Hookah & Cigar Bar
1077 Elm St. 647-6653
Luigi's Pizza Bar & Grille
712 Valley 622-1021
Mad Bob's Saloon
342 Lincoln St. 669-3049
McGarvey's
1097 Elm St. 627-2721
Midnight Rodeo (Yard)
1211 S. Mammoth Road
623-3545
Milly's Tavern
500 Commercial St. 625-4444
Murphy's Taproom
494 Elm St. 644-3535
N'awlins Grille
860 Elm St. 606-2488
Olympic Lounge
506 Valley St. 644-5559
Penuche's on Hanover
96 Hanover St. 626-9830
Piccola's
815 Elm St. 296-4070
Raxx Lounge
1195 Elm St. 203-1458
Salona Bar & Grill
128 Maple St. 624-4020
Shaskeen
909 Elm St. 625-0246
Shorty's Mexican Roadhouse
1050 Bicentennial Dr.
625-1730
Sizzle Bistro
1 Highlander Way 232-3344
Social 24
24 Depot St. 782-8489
Starbucks MHT
1111 South Willow St
641-4839
Strange Brew Tavern
88 Market St. 666-4292
Theos
102 Elm St. 669-4678
TJ's Bar & Grill
23 Central St. 660-2241
Unwine'd
865 Second St. 625-9463
Wild Rover
21 Kosciuszko St. 669-7722
XO on Elm
827 Elm St. 206-5721

Meredith
Camp
300 Daniel Webster Highway 279-3003
Giuseppe's Ristorante
312 Daniel Webster Hwy
279-3313

Merrimack
Giorgio's Ristorante & Martini Bar
707 Milford Road 883-7333
Homestead
641 Daniel Webster Highway 429-2022
Jade Dragon
515 DW Highway 424-2280
Pacific Fusion
356 Daniel Webster Highway 424-6320

Milford
Chapanga's
168 Elm St. 249-5214
Clark's Tavern
40 Nashua St. 769-3119
Giorgio's Ristorante & Meze Bar
524 Nashua St. 673-3939
J's Tavern

Thursday, Dec. 19

Amherst
La Belle Winery: Derek Fimbel

Auburn
Auburn Pitts: Rockin' Ronnie Adams

Boscawen
Alan's: John Pratt in Lounge

Brookline
Mad Hatter: J-Rae & Mr. Dean

Concord
Barley House: Traditional Irish Sessions
Hermanos: Joe Rillo Duo
Penuche's Ale House: Ghost Dinner Band & Captain Chet

Dover
Brick House: James McGarvey
Fury's: Erin's Guild
Sonny's: Skull Shining DJ Night, Rachel + Lukas from MMOSS

Epping
Holy Grail: Dan Walker

Gilford
Patrick's: Jonathan Lorentz and Rick Page

Laconia
Paradise Beach Club: DJ Gin-E
Pitman's Freight Room: JCB Jazz Trio

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Karen Grenier
Whippersnappers: Four Sticks

Manchester
Breezeway Pub: DJ Pet - Resurrection
Club 313: DJ Pez & DJ Carlos
Ignite: DJ Drive
Karma: Midas Teleporation DJ/Drums
Midnight Rodeo: Line Dancing
Milly's: Lakes Region Big Band
N'awlins Grille: Live Jazz
Raxx: DJ Mike
Shaskeen: Yankee Cockfight, Stevie Tombstone, Leonhardt
Shorty's: Chris Cavanaugh
Strange Brew: Pat and the Hats

Merrimack
Homestead: Gary Lopez

Nashua
Amsterdam: DJ Sammy Smoove
Boston Billiard Club: DJ & Beach Night
Fody's: Live Music
Shorty's: Steve Tolley

Newmarket
Stone Church: Live Irish Music w/ Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki

Portsmouth
British Beer Company: Jackson Wetherbee & Steve Mazzetta
Dolphin Striker: Live Music
Portsmouth Book & Bar: Ron Levy & Jon Ross
Red Door: Local Heroes
Ri Ra: Fil Pacino
Rudi's: Dmitri & Guest
Thirsty Moose: Harsh Armadillo

Weare
Boondocks: Brooks Hubbard

Friday, Dec. 20

Bedford
Shorty's: Lisa Guyer
Starbucks: Starbucks Acoustic

Belmont
Lakes Region Casino: Natalie Turgeon Band

Boscawen
Alan's: Bob French

Brookline
Mad Hatter: April Cushman & The Campwood Band

63 Union Sq. 249-9222
Madison's Irish Pub
586 Nashua St. 672-2060
Pasta Loft
241 Union Sq. 672-2270
Tiebreakers at Hampshire Hills
50 Emerson Road 673-7123

Nashua
603 Lounge
14 W. Hollis St. 821-5260
Amsterdam
8 Temple St. 204-5534
Arena Sportsbar & Nightclub
53 High St. 881-9060
Bernie's
522 Amherst St. 978-884-9536
Boston Billiard Club
55 Northeastern Blvd. 943-5630
Country Tavern
452 Amherst St. 889-5871
Cucina Toscana
427 Amherst St 821-7356
Fat Daddy's Café
650 Amherst St. 821-5136
Fody's Tavern
9 Clinton St. 577-9015
Haluwa Lounge
Nashua Mall 883-6662
Killarney's Irish Pub
9 Northeastern Blvd. 888-1551
Martha's Exchange
185 Main St. 883-8781
Michael Timothy's
212 Main St. 595-9334
Nashua Garden
121 Main St. 886-7363
O'Shea's Tavern & Cigar Bar
449 Amherst St. 943-7089
Peddler's Daughter
48 Main St. 821-7535
Pine Street Eatery
136 Pine St. 886-3501
Riverwalk Coffee
35 Railroad Sq. 578-0200
Slade's Food & Spirits
4 W. Hollis St. 886-1344
Stella Blu
70 E. Pearl St. 578-5557
Shorty's Mexican Roadhouse
48 Gusabel Ave 882-4070
Unums
47 E. Pearl St. 821-6500
Villa Banca
194 Main St. 598-0500
Wicked Twisted Bar and Grill
38 East Hollis St. 577-1718

New Boston
Molly's Tavern
35 Mont Vernon Rd 487-2011

New London
Flying Goose
40 Andover Road 526-6899

Newington
Momma D's Casa di Pasta
347 Shattuck Way 431-6511

Newmarket
KJ's Sports Bar
N. Main St. 659-2329
Lamprey River Tavern
110 Main St. 659-3696
Stone Church
5 Granite St. 292-3546

Newport
Salt Hill Pub Newport
58 Main St. 863-7774

Newton
Hen House
85 South Main St 382-1705
North Hampton Locals 215 Lafayette Rd. 379-2729
Northwood Tough Tymes 221 Rochester Rd 942-5555

Pelham
Shooters
116 Bridge St. 635-3577

Peterborough
Harlow's Pub
3 School St. 924-6365

Plaistow
Corner Pocket
181 Plaistow Rd. 382-3130
Dugout Grille
93 Main St. 819-4947
Racks Bar & Grill
20 Plaistow Rd. 974-2406
Sad Café
148 Plaistow Rd. 382-8893

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid Island Grill
The hill at Hanover and High streets 427-2583
British Beer Company
103 Hanover St. 501-0515
Daniel Street Tavern
111 Daniel St. 430-1011
Dolphin Striker
15 Bow St. 431-5222
Fat Belly's
2 Bow St. 610-4227
Hilton Garden Inn
100 High St. 431-1499
Jitto's Supersteak
3131 Lafayette Rd 436-9755
MoJo's BBQ Grill
95 Brewery Lane 436-6656
Oar House
50 Ceres St. 436-4025
Paddy's American Grill
27 International Dr. 430-9450
Portsmouth Gas Light
64 Market St. 431-9122
Portsmouth Pearl
45 Pearl St. 431-0148
Press Room
77 Daniel St. 431-5186
Red Door
107 State St. 373-6827
Red Hook Brewery
35 Corporate Dr. 430-8600
Ri Ra Irish Pub
22 Market Sq. 319-1680
Rudi's
20 High St. 430-7834
Rusty Hammer
49 Pleasant St. 436-9289
Thirsty Moose Tap House
21 Congress St. 427-8645
Wet Bar at Pages
172 Hanover St. 436-0004

Raymond
Famous Legends at Strikers East
4 Essex Dr. 895-4474

Salem
Black Water Grill
43 Pelham Road 328-9013
Coffee Coffee
326 S. Broadway 912-5381
Jocelyn's Lounge
355 S. Broadway 870-0045
JT's Bar and Grill
326 S. Broadway 893-4055
Sayde's Restaurant
136 Cluff Crossing 890-1032
Varsity Club
67 Main St. 898-4344

Seabrook
Chop Shop Pub
920 Lafayette Rd 760-7704
Honey Pot Bar & Lounge
920 Lafayette Road 760-2013
Master McGrath's
Route 107 474-6540
Prime Time Sports Grill
620 Lafayette Rd 760-7230

Sunapee
One Mile West Tavern
6 Brook Road 863-7500
Sunapee Coffee House
Rte. 11 & Lower Main St. 229-1859

Tilton
Black Swan Inn
354 W. Main St. 286-4524

Warner
The Local
2 E. Main St. 456-6066

Weare
Boondocks Tavern & Country Grille
487 South Stark Highway 529-7747

Windham
Common Man
88 Range Road 898-0088
Jonathon's Lounge
Park Place Lanes, Route 28 800-892-0568
The Castleton
92 Indian Rock Rd. 800-688-5644

Concord
Makris: D-Comp
Red Blazer: Brett Wilson
Tandy's: DJ Iceman Streetz
True Brew: Hickory Horned Devils

Derry
Halligan: Jerry McCarthy

Dover
Asia: DJ Shadow Walker
Brick House: Halo & the Harlots/Tancred/Box Tiger/When Particles Collide
Cara: Open Jam
Fury's: String Theory
Kelley's: Erin's Guild
Sonny's: Lady Luck Burlesque

Epping
Holy Grail: Dr. Pepper

Gilford
Patrick's: Corey Brackett

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Acoustic Jam w/ John Erlman

Hampton
Wally's Pub: Prospect Hill

Hooksett
Asian Breeze: DJ Alban
Tap House Grille: Jimmy Magoon

Hudson
AJ's: Crave

Kingston
Bucco's: Live Music

Laconia
Pitman's Freight Room: Michael Vincent Band

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Lachlan Maclearn
Whippersnappers: Last Laugh

Manchester
Breezeway Pub: DJ Mckay NRG Dance
British Beer Company: Soundtrack To Monday

Happy Holidays
Award Winning Brewery
Exceptional Dining
Panoramic Views of Mt. Kearsarge

Featuring 17 Hand Crafted Beers on tap!
All of our brews are available in 64oz Growlers like our:
Isle of Pines Barleywine 2011, 2012, 2013
This year we are offering three vintage styles of our Barelywine, highly hopped with a huge malt presence, each offering different levels of complexity and ABV.
Serving up amazing lunches and dinners
Mon-Sat 11:30AM - 9PM • Sun 11:30AM - 8PM
40 Andover Road, New London, NH
603.526.6899
www.FlyingGoose.com
088290

Fill your holiday with
Downtown Cheers Grille & Bar
Chill out with Wicked Wednesday Drink & Food Specials all day long
Gift cards are the perfect last minute gift that shows you care!
Ugly Sweater Contest
Dec. 20th & 21st
$100 Cheers Card for the winner!
17 Depot St., Concord, NH
228-0180
088179

Manchester Pawn
Jewelry Bought & Sold
622-7296
since 1992
Diamonds, Gold,
Electronics, Money to Loan
49 Hollis Street
Manchester
078998

FREE JUNK CAR REMOVAL!
We will pay up to $500
for some cars and trucks.
Please mention this Hippo ad
MURRAY'S
AUTO RECYCLING
877-JUNKBOX
LONDONDERRY, NH
55 Hall Rd. Londonderry
425-2562
WE SELL PARTS
080614

NEW YEAR'S EVE FAMILY CELEBRATION!
Tuesday, Dec 31, 2013
New Year's In Motion
Slopes are open until 10pm
Live Music by: The McMurphy's in the Sleigh Room
Skiing/Snowboarding 3pm-10pm
Snowtubing 5pm-10pm
Monte Carlo 6pm-11pm
Light Hors d'oeuvres 6pm-8pm
Food Tasting Stations 8pm-11pm
The McMurphy's 8pm-12am
Comedy Show 7:30pm-9pm
Party Favors 10pm
Champagne Toast 11:45pm
Fireworks 12am
PATS PEAK
Henniker, NH
patspeak.com
1-888-PATS PEAK
Purchase tickets in advance online.
PARTY & SKIING* Adult (18-64) $90 Junior (6-17) $50 Senior (65+) $50
PARTY ONLY** Adult (18-64) $70 Junior (6-17) $35 Senior (65+) $35
SKIING ONLY Adult (18-64) $38 Junior (6-17) $38 Senior (65+) $38
Tubing Only (All Ages) $20
088231

2014
New Year's Eve at the Brew!
Ring in the New Year with your favorite beer and celebrate with us!
We're putting on a nice spread;
• Big Appetizer Buffet
• Sweet Desserts
Music All Night!
• David Rousseau
• Mr. Nick & the Dirty Tricks
It may be New Year's Eve but it's still $2 Tuesday!
Enjoy a selection of fine Scotch, Bourbon, and Whiskey, too.
STRANGE BREW Tavern
StrangeBrewTavern.com • 603.666.4292
88 Market St., Manchester
HOURS: 4 pm-1am, 7 Days a Week
088317

GAUCHOS
CHURRASCARIA
Brazilian Steak House
Celebrate 2013
DECEMBER 31ST
Ring in the New Year's with a splendid Dinner and Dancing to the countdown.
DJ Moises Entertaining
Dinner starts at 8p.m.
Cost: $40
Party only $20 after 9p.m.
Open Christmas Day
BUSINESS CASUAL ATTIRE
603-669-9460
62 Lowell St, Manchester, NH
GAUCHOSBRAZILIANSTEAKHOUSE.COM
088173



GETTING UGLY

A heated deck will be open for the 9th Annual Ugly Sweater Party on Saturday, Dec. 21, at 8 p.m. at Derryfield Country Club. Last year's event drew 850, with hundreds turned away. DJ Terry Moran spins in the banquet room with his video screens and the famous photo booth. Brandon Lepere performs solo acoustic on the deck and Last Kid Picked holds forth in the main bar area. Tickets are $15 ($20 to jump the line) with all proceeds benefiting Make-A-Wish Foundation and NH CHAD. 625 Mammoth Road, Manchester, 623-2880.

City Sports Grille: Switchback
Club 313: DJ Bob
Derryfield: Josh Logan Band
Drynk: Brooks Hubbard
Element: DJ Smallz
Fratello's: Jeff Mrozek
Manchvegas: Digger Dog
Milly's: Live Music
Murphy's: Radio Daze
N'awlins Grille: Live Jazz
Penuche's: Ghost Dinner w/ Mines of Paris
Raxx: DJ Mike
Shaskeen: Rockspring
Strange Brew: Gracie Curran

Merrimack
Homestead: Paul Luff

Milford
Clark's: Charlie Christos

Nashua
Amsterdam: Ryan Brooks Kelly
Arena: Borrowed Time / DJ Danjah
Country Tavern: Gary Lopez
Fody's: Jenny Lynn
Stella Blu: M.B. Padfield
Wicked Twisted: Walkin' The Line

Newmarket
Stone Church: Maganahan's Revival w/Superfrog

Peterborough
Harlow's: Murphy's Blues

Plaistow
Sad Café: Hayes, Grace Under Fire, The Tymes, Speaking of the Past

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid: Live Local Music
British Beer Co.: Jim Devlin Band
Dolphin Striker: Live Music
Gas Light: Grill w/ Chris Donahue/Nightclub w/DJ Koko P/Pub w/Tony Santesse
Hilton Garden: Tim Gurshin
Oar House: Don Severance
Press Room: Kung Fu w/ Dopapod
Red Door: Bobby Nakib
Ri Ra: Hott Commodity
Rudi's: Mike Effenberger
Rusty Hammer: Live Music
Thirsty Moose: Big Ol' Dirty Bucket

Salem
Black Water: Rick Breton & Crew

Seabrook
Chop Shop: Rosie

Weare
Boondocks: DJ Barry

Saturday, Dec. 21

Bedford
Shorty's: Brett Wilson w/ Paul Costley

Belmont
Lakes Region Casino: Cricket Creek

Boscawen
Alan's: Dustin LeDale

Bristol
Back Room: Uncle Steve Band
Christmas Party

Brookline
Mad Hatter: Wooden Soul

Concord
Hermanos: Joel Cage

Penuche's Ale House: Flabberghaster
Red Blazer: Dustry Gray Band
Tandy's: DJ Iceman Streetz
True Brew: Rhythm Method

Dover
Asia: DJ Shadow Walker
Brick House: Leonhardt/Stevie Tombstone/Yankee Cockfight
Cara: Joe Young
Fury's: Watkinsonics
Kelley's Row: Tim Theriault Trio

Epping
Holy Grail: Matt Gelanis

Epsom
Circle 9: Cactus Gang Band

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Problem Child/ Toys For Tots Benefit

Hooksett
Asian Breeze: Ten and Out
Tap House Grille: Jeff Mrozek

Kingston
Bucco's: Live Music

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Thursday, Dec. 19
Derry
Halligan Tavern: Mike Koutrobis, Nikk Piccione
Dover
Cara's: Matt D.
Nashua
Fody's Tavern: Alana Susko

Friday, Dec. 20
Londonderry
Tupelo: Paul Nardizzi, Steve Scarfo

Saturday, Dec. 21
Manchester
Club 313: Comedy Drag Show w/ DJ Bob

Nashua
Arena Nightclub: Alana Susko

Monday, Dec. 23
Concord
Penuche's Ale House: Punchlines Open Mic

Thursday, Dec. 26
Derry
Halligan Tavern: Francis Birch, Paul Landwehr

Dover
Cara's Irish Pub: Dave Rattigan
Nashua
Fody's Tavern: Alana Susko

Friday, Dec. 27
Portsmouth
Portsmouth Gaslight: Rob Steen

Saturday, Dec. 28
Dover
Cara's Irish Pub: Michael Winslow (Police Squad)

Portsmouth
Music Hall: Juston McKinney's Last Laugh 2013

Tuesday, Dec. 31
Brookline
Brookline Events Center: Mark Scalia, Steve Guilmette

Concord
Holiday Inn: Paul Nardizzi, Ryan Gartley

Manchester
Armory Ballroom: Dueling Pianos
Headliners: Paul Nardizzi, Rob Steen, Matt D & Jenny Zigrino



HELPING HANDS

Manchester musicians help fight homelessness on Saturday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m. at Milly's Tavern. The event benefiting New Horizons of New Hampshire is in its 20th year. Milly's owners Peter and Christine Telge also host a Christmas morning breakfast for the homeless. Performers include Alli Beaudry, Josh Logan, Chris Taylor, MB Padfield Adam Fithian (Prospect Hill), Nate Comp, Dan Swanson, Tajora Davis, Micah Desmarais, Byron Marks and Lindsay Hilts. Tickets are $10.

Laconia
Baja Beach Club: DJ

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Chris Gardner
Whippersnappers: Wildfire

Manchester
Breezeway Pub: DJ McKay
British Beer: Eric Grant Band
City Sports Grille: Close Range
Derryfield: Last Kid Picked
Element: DJ Smallz
Fratello's: Steve Tolley
Manchvegas: Live Rock Music
Milly's: Live Music
Murphy's Taproom: Lisa Guyer's Gypsy Caravan
N'awlins Grille: Live Jazz
Penuche's: Formula 5
Raxx: DJ Mike
Shaskeen: Joshua Tree
Strange Brew: Rhythm Method

Merrimack
Homestead: Lachlan Maclearn
Jade Dragon: Soul Mate Band

Milford
Clark's: Ryan Bossie

Nashua
Amsterdam: Jimmy D
Boston Billiard Club: DJ Anthem Throwback
Country Tavern: Acoustic Overdrive
Fody's: Encircle
Stella Blu: Rampage Trio
Wicked Twisted: Random Act

Newmarket
Stone Church: Charlotte Locke w/Devil Twins

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid: Live Music
British Beer Company: Mugsy
Dolphin Striker: Live Music
Gas Light: Grill w/ Corey Brackett/Nightclub w/DJ Koko P/Pub w/Tony Santesse
Hilton Garden: Ed and Lou
Oar House: Don Severance
Portsmouth Book & Bar: Preacher Jack Christmas Special
Press Room: Ghosts of Jupiter
Red Door: Eric Sharp
Ri Ra: Cover Story - Ugly Sweater Night
Rudi's: PJ Donahue Trio
Thirsty Moose: Fighting Friday

Salem
Black Water: Sonic Boomers

Seabrook
Chop Shop: Drop Zone

Warner
The Local: Second Wind

Weare
Boondocks: Ugly Sweater Xmas Party w/ Tore Down House

Sunday, Dec. 22

Bedford
Copper Door: Jim Devlin

Concord
Granite: Jazz Brunch w/ Joan Watson Jones
Hermanos: Paul Speidel

Dover
Brick House: Live Jazz Brunch with Jim Dozet Trio
Cara: Open Irish Session
Kelley's Row: Bratigan/Irish Christmas Party
Sonny's: Doomriders/Kyoty

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Blues jam Christmas Party w/Travis Colby

Londonderry
Whippersnappers: John Paul's Christmas Show

Manchester
Milly's: Cans for the Cause
Shaskeen: Sunday Stomp w/ RiverBirds
Strange Brew: Howard Randall

Meredith
Giuseppe's: Open Stage with Lou Porrazzo

Portsmouth
Dolphin Striker: Live Music
Press Room: 6pm Heather Pierson - Charlie Brown Christmas / 9pm Chris Klaxton & Miami Jazz Saturday
Red Door: Green Lion Crew

Monday, Dec. 23

Concord
Hermanos: White Symmes & Tim Wildman

Dover
Sonny's: Punk/Metal DJ Night

Manchester
Fratello's: Rob Wolfe
Milly's: DJ

Merrimack
Homestead: Charlie Christos

Nashua
Bernie's: Back Central

Newmarket
Stone Church: Sinful Blues - Open Blues Jam

Portsmouth
Dolphin Striker: Live Music
Press Room: Ken Ormes
Red Door: Zach Jones/Hutch Heelan
Ri Ra: Oran Mor

Tuesday, Dec. 24

Concord
Barley House: Irish Sessions

Dover
Cara: Open Bluegrass/Americana

Manchester
Raxx: DJ Mike
Strange Brew: Santa Howard - Howard Randall

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid: The Seldom Playrights

Wednesday, Dec. 25

No live music to report as of press time but check with your favorite nightlife location for their Christmas Day hours. See the venue box on pages 86 and 87 for bars and restaurants near you.

GET THE CROWDS AT YOUR GIG

Want to get your show listed in the Music This Week? Let us know all about your upcoming show, comedy show, open mike night or multi-band event by sending all the information to **music@hippopress.com**. Send information by 9 a.m. on Friday to have the event considered for the next Thursday's paper.









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NITE CONCERTS

Capitol Center for the Performing Arts 44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com
The Colonial Theatre 95 Main St., Keene, 352-2033, thecolonial.org
Dana Humanities Center at Saint Anselm College 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, 641-7700, anselm.edu/dana
The Flying Monkey 39 S. Main St., Plymouth, 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com
Hampton Beach Casino Ballroom 169 Ocean Blvd., Hampton Beach, 929-4100, casinoballroom.com
Leddy Center 38c Ladd's Lane, Epping, 679-2781, leddycenter.org
Lowell Boarding House Park 40 French St., Lowell, Mass., www.lowellsummermusic.org
Lowell Memorial Auditorium East Merrimack Street, Lowell, Mass., 978-454-2299, lowellauditorium.com
Meadowbrook U.S. Cellular Pavilion 72 Meadowbrook Lane, Gilford, 293-4700, meadowbrook.net
The Middle Arts & Entertainment Center 316 Central St., Franklin, 934-1901, themiddlenh.org
The Music Hall 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusichall.org
The Old Meeting House, 1 New Boston Road, Francestown
Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org
Prescott Park Arts Festival 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth, www.prescottpark.org, 436-2848
Rochester Opera House 31 Wakefield St., Rochester, 335-1992, rochesteroperahouse.com
Stockbridge Theatre Pinkerton Academy, Route 28, Derry, 437-5210, stockbridgetheatre.com
Tupelo Music Hall 2 Young Road, Londonderry, 437-5100, tupelohall.com
Verizon Wireless Arena 555 Elm St., Manchester, 644-5000, www.verizonwirelessarena.com
Whittemore Center Arena, UNH 128 Main St., Durham, 862-4000, whittcenter.com

- **Preservation Hall Jazz Band - Creole Christmas** Sat., Dec. 21, at 8, Music Hall
- **Bellevue Cadillac Annual Christmas Show** Sat., Dec. 21, at 8, Tupelo
- **Merrimack Holiday Pops** Sun., Dec. 22, at 7, Cap Center
- **Nick DiPaolo** Fri., Dec. 27, at 7:30, Flying Monkey
- **Stephen Kellogg: Alone for the Holidays Part Deux** Fri., Dec. 27, at 8, Tupelo
- **Josh Logan** Sun., Dec. 29, at 8, Palace Theatre
- **Josh Logan** Mon., Dec. 30, at 8, Palace Theatre
- **Open Mic Night Featuring Hilton Park** Thu., Jan. 2, at 8, Tupelo
- **Recycled Percussion** Fri., Jan. 3, at 7:30, Palace Theatre
- **Hot Tuna** Sat., Jan. 4, at 7:30, Flying Monkey
- **Willie Nile** Sat., Jan. 4, at 8, Tupelo
- **Recycled Percussion** Sat., Jan. 4, at 3 & 7, Palace Theatre
- **Cherry Poppin' Daddies** Fri., Jan. 10, at 7:30, Flying Monkey
- **Keller Williams** Fri., Jan. 10, at 8, Tupelo
- **Remember The 50's** Fri., Jan. 10, at 7, Stockbridge Theatre
- **Recycled Percussion** Sat., Jan. 11, at All Day, Flying Monkey
- **Big Bad Voodoo Daddy** Sat., Jan. 11, at 7, Cap Center
- **Beatlejuice** Sat., Jan. 11, at 8, Tupelo
- **Half Step (Dead/Garcia Tribute)** Sat., Jan. 11, at 8, Rochester Opera House
- **April Verch** Thu., Jan. 16, at 7, Franklin Opera House
- **Comedy with Mike Hanley & Orlando Baxter** Fri., Jan. 17, at 8, Tupelo
- **Caravan of Thieves** Sat., Jan. 18, at 8, Music Hall
- **Marc Cohn** Sat., Jan. 18, at 7:30, Flying Monkey
- **Dave Mason's Traffic Jam** Sun., Jan. 19, at 7:30, Flying Monkey
- **1964: The Tribute** Sun., Jan. 19, at 7, Palace Theatre
- **Upright Citizens Brigade** Fri., Jan. 24, at 7, Cap Center
- **Sister Hazel Acoustic** Fri., Jan. 24, at 8, Tupelo
- **Paula Cole** Sat., Jan. 25, at 8, Tupelo
- **Marshall Crenshaw with The Bottle Rockets** Sun., Jan. 26, at 8, Tupelo
- **NRBQ** Thu., Jan. 30, at 8, Tupelo
- **Bela Fleck with Brooklyn Rider** Fri., Jan. 31, at 8, Colonial Theatre
- **Darlingside** Fri., Jan. 31, at 8, Music Hall
- **Bruce In The USA (Springsteen Cover Band)** Fri., Jan. 31, at 7, Palace Theatre
- **Max Creek** Fri., Jan. 31, at 8, Tupelo
- **Peacheaters & Playin' Dead** Sat., Feb. 1, at 7:30, Flying Monkey
- **Bill Cosby** Sat., Feb. 1, at 7, Cap Center
- **Melissa Ferrick** Sat., Feb. 1, at 8, Tupelo
- **Colin Mochrie & Brad Sherman** Wed., Feb. 5, at 7, Palace Theatre
- **Open Mic Celebrity Series Featuring Mary Lou Lord** Thu., Feb. 6, at 8, Tupelo
- **James Montgomery Band** Fri., Feb. 7, at 8, Tupelo
- **Southside Johnny & the Asbury Jukes** Fri., Feb. 7, at 7, Palace Theatre
- **Motor Booty Affair** Fri., Feb. 7, at 8, Rochester Opera House
- **Lori McKenna** Sat., Feb. 8, at 8, Silver Center
- **Steve Blunt** Sat., Feb. 8, at 7, Tupelo
- **Doktor Kaboom** Sun., Feb. 9, at 7, Cap Center
- **Rain - Tribute to the Beatles** Tue., Feb. 11, at 7, Cap Center
- **Defending the Caveman** Fri., Feb. 14, at 7, Cap Center
- **Spirit of Johnny Cash** Fri., Feb. 14, at 8, Rochester Opera House
- **Rick Derringer** Fri., Feb. 14, at 8, Tupelo



MIAMI JAM

On Saturday, Dec. 21, at 8 p.m. at 1130ft Studios, trumpeter/composer Chris Klaxton hosts five of Miami's best musicians for a weekend of performances in the Seacoast area. Originally set for the Barley Pub in Dover and moved due to the venue's sudden closing, the event is a BYOB open to the public concert and live recording, with Seacoast musicians invited to join a cross pollinating jam session during the second set. 3 Front St., Rollinsford. (Park along river/building and enter near library. Studio door is first on the left.)

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All quotes are from *Breaking Dawn (The Twilight Saga, Book 4)*, by Stephenie Meyer, born Dec. 24, 1973.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) *He sniffed carefully at the air and then followed some scent to the back of the long room. There was a built in dresser there. He sniffed again, then opened a drawer. With a triumphant grin, he held out a pair of artfully faded blue jeans. I flitted to his side. 'How did you do that?' 'Denim has its own scent just like anything else. Now ... stretch cotton?'* Don't skip laundry day.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) *With a grin stretching my face, I whirled in a sudden circle and karate-chopped the rock with the side of my hand. The stone shrieked and groaned and—with a big poof of dust—split in two.* With great power comes the possibility to hire yourself out as an apprentice down at the quarry.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) *"'Don't get worked up, Dad,' I said after a moment of loaded silence. 'Everything's okay.' Edward grimaced, and I knew it was in objection to the word okay. He probably would have used something more like* wonderful *or* perfect *or* glorious*."* Choose your words carefully.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) *Charlie's scent was a fistful of flames, punching straight down my throat.* Stay away from punching flames and overly strong scents.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) *There were new scents here, piquing my interest, increasing my curiosity. Scents that didn't belong in the deep woods. Honeysuckle. Smoke. Roses. Sawdust? Something metallic, too. The richness of deep earth, dug up and exposed. I leaned toward the mystery.* Lean toward the mystery.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) *Sometimes it was easy to forget that I was kissing a vampire.* Pay attention to what you're kissing.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) *Like always, as soon as I started thinking about Edward I was caught up in a dizzy spin of fantasies. The stranger had to clear his throat to get my attention; he was still waiting for an answer about the car's make and model.* Don't let yourself get caught up in a dizzy spin of fantasies.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) "*No one is staring at you,* I promised myself. *No one is staring at you. No one is staring at you.*" No one is staring at you.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) *'You'd think I was shoving bamboo splinters under your nails,' Alice muttered to herself as she followed me in. I paid no attention to her. I was in my happy place.* Take refuge in your happy place as needed.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) *Moving as if I were in a race, I got the hatch open, the cap off, the card scanned, and the nozzle in the tank within seconds. Of course, there was nothing I could do to make the numbers on the gauge pick up the pace. They ticked by sluggishly, almost as if they were doing it just to annoy me.* Don't take things too personally.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) *But I'd also accepted his outrageous gifts and was registered, however futilely, to attend Dartmouth College in the fall. Now it was his turn. Before he turned me into a vampire—his big compromise—he had one other stipulation to make good on.* Be careful about outrageous gifts.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) *Besides my dad and mom, did it really matter what people were saying about my engagement? About my new car? About my mysterious acceptance into an Ivy League college? About the shiny black credit card that felt red-hot in my back pocket right now?* No. It does not matter what they are saying about your shiny things.

NITE SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

1				3				6
			4		7			
3	2						1	9
	5						6	
6				5				3
	7						8	
7	8						4	1
			9		8			
9				4				7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/19

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SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. *Last week's puzzle answers are below*

12/12

4	9	7	5	2	8	6	1	3
5	3	2	6	7	1	9	4	8
6	8	1	9	4	3	7	5	2
2	4	3	1	8	6	5	9	7
7	6	9	2	5	4	3	8	1
8	1	5	3	9	7	2	6	4
9	5	8	7	1	2	4	3	6
3	7	4	8	6	5	1	2	9
1	2	6	4	3	9	8	7	5

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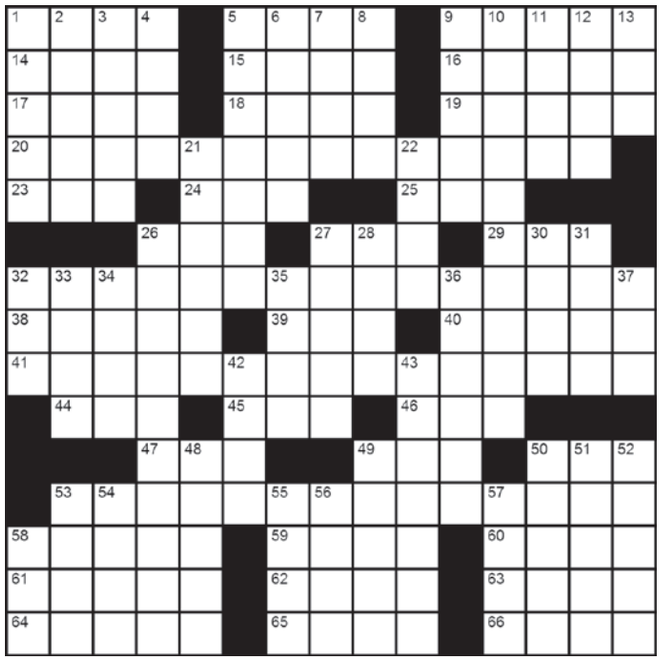
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"Magazine Racket" — we've got some issues

Across

1 La Jolla campus, briefly
5 Glasgow citizen
9 Better qualified
14 A or E, or an IOU for that matter
15 "American Gothic" setting
16 Divide the pie
17 "___ do better than that!"
18 Handlebar feature
19 1980's White House name
20 Magazine that summarizes the contents of some cookies?
23 "Upstairs at Eric's" duo
24 Electronic surveillance gp.
25 Noah's project
26 Pelican State sch.
27 Captain Kirk's journal
29 Job in "The Santaland Diaries"
32 Magazine that stops you from dancing to a Madonna hit?
38 First words of "Baby Got Back"
39 Plumb of "The Brady Bunch"
40 "What now?!"
41 Magazine that shouldn't try to fit into an elevator?
44 Do some quilting
45 "Licensed to ___" (Beastie Boys album)
46 "Solve for x" subj.
47 Blind rage
49 Olive ___ (Popeye's lady)
50 "Blueberries for ___" (kiddie lit classic)
53 Magazine that draws readers to it 52 times a year?
58 Earth tremor
59 ___-Seltzer
60 Cold War org.
61 1983 comedy with the line "Kenny, don't paint your sister!"
62 Factual
63 "Let's Get ___"
64 Not all there
65 Programming language designed by Larry Wall
66 Book-lined retreats



12/12

B	A	C	H	■	O	S	S	I	E	■	■	O	P	T
E	C	H	O	■	C	H	U	R	R	O	■	T	I	A
T	H	E	L	A	D	Y	B	A	N	I	S	H	E	S
■	■	R	A	P	■	■	■	S	E	L	L	E	C	K
D	I	R	■	R	I	C	H	■	S	C	A	R	E	S
E	N	Y	A	■	P	O	O	L	T	O	Y	■	■	■
B	U	R	G	E	O	N	W	O	O	L	■	F	A	O
T	I	E	O	N	■	N	C	O	■	O	R	R	I	N
S	T	D	■	S	W	E	A	T	E	R	B	E	S	T
■	■	■	L	E	A	R	N	E	R	■	I	S	L	A
E	C	T	O	M	Y	■	I	D	E	A	■	H	E	P
B	R	A	M	B	L	E	■	■	■	R	E	M	■	■
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E	S	P	■	E	S	S	A	Y	S	■	M	A	U	I
D	H	S	■	■	S	E	L	E	S	■	A	T	M	S

Down

1 Bring into one
2 Drink with marshmallows
3 Cable movie channel that used to have an exclamation point
4 Body shop concern
5 Enlists
6 Chick of jazz
7 Boo-boo
8 "Lights out" music
9 Ed who voiced Carl in "Up"
10 Not the best bedmate
11 "The Mod Squad" role
12 "Behold!" to Caesar
13 King: Sp.
21 Invisible
22 Herb in poultry rubs
26 "Idiocracy" actor
27 Video game segment
28 Tandoor, for one
30 ___ Bizkit
31 Baby horse
32 ___ for "victory"
33 Cheers at a bullfight
34 Cave in
35 Movie holder
36 Uma, in "The Truth About Cats and Dogs"
37 180 degrees from SSW
42 Arena section
43 Feature of subscription-only websites
48 Gin game
49 Liam's "Schindler's List" role
50 Footwear for a frozen lake
51 "Good Eats" host Brown
52 City on the Rhone
53 Prefix with nautical
54 Long ride?
55 "Deadwood" lawman Wyatt
56 "Gold" getter in a 1997 film
57 City west of Tulsa
58 T-shirt size lineup, for short

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That is a general mail box. To reach reporters with specific sections of the paper:

- **Arts** — Send information on exhibits, theatrical productions, classical music events, art and theater classes and auditions to Kelly Sennott at arts@hippopress.com. You can also reach her by phone at 625-1855 ext. 12.
- **Books** — Send information on book-related events (including author events, book clubs, poetry events and more) to Kelly Sennott at arts@hippopress.com. Books submitted for review will not be returned. Books can be submitted for review or mention to Book Editor, The Hippo, 49 Hollis St., Manchester, NH, 03104. Books submitted will be considered for review but are not guaranteed review or mention.
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- **News** — Send information about new businesses, political events and other items intended for the news section to jmucciarone@hippopress.com. You can also reach him at 625-1855 ext. 36.

Not sure who to send it to? You can also contact editor Amy Diaz at adiaz@hippopress.com or call 625-1855 ext. 29.

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The Hippo does not accept unsolicited articles, photos, illustrations or guest columns for publication. Submissions will not be returned or acknowledged.

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Contact Charlene Cesarini at 625-1855 ext. 26 or at ccesarini@hippopress.com or Jody Reese at 625-1855 ext. 21 or at jreese@hippopress.com for information on placing a display advertisement. The space reservation deadline is Friday at noon. The ad materials deadline is Monday at noon. Contact your ad rep or Charlene Cesarini for more information.

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Contact our classified ad department at classifieds@hippopress.com or 625-1855 ext. 25. The deadline for classifieds is Monday at noon.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPHERD

Nuclear tractor pull

Edward Teller, the famous theoretical physicist known as the "father of the hydrogen bomb" for his work on the World War II-era Manhattan Project, died in 2003, but his daughter Rene told The Free Press of Kinston, N.C., in November that she had recently discovered two of her father's precious mementos at a thrift shop near Kinston during a road trip to visit relatives. "(Father's) work was so demanding" she said, that he needed "recreational activities" and tried "the things you'd suspect," like chess. However, the two mementos were awards Teller had won at tractor pull competitions. "He'd show up at major tractor pulls" riding just a Cub Cadet mower, Rene said, and "leave the competition in the dust." (Teller's secret, she said, was using "nuclear fusion-based engines," which sponsors ultimately had to ban.)

The entrepreneurial spirit

• "It will be sort of my unique factor," said indulgent customer Lucy Luckayanko, describing her then-upcoming $3,000 eyeball jewelry implant from New York City's Park Avenue Laser Vision — the insertion of a piece of platinum between the sclera (the white part) and the clear conjunctiva. Actually, said the shop's medical director, Dr. Emil Chynn, to WNEW-TV in November, it's "pretty safe."

• Japan's "cat cafes" allow the pet-starved to relax while dining by caressing house kittens that roam the facilities, but similar eateries have opened recently featuring owls (the Fukurou Sabou in Tokyo, Owl Family in Osaka). (The owls are not caressable and easily spooked by excessive noise.)

• Liu Pengfei's Five Loaves and Two Fish restaurant in Fuzhou, China, is losing money rapidly despite overflow dining crowds, according to a December China Daily report, because he allows customers to pay only what they wish. (They must also wash out their bowls.) "I want to continue," he said, "as I believe the feeling of trust is contagious."

Cutting-edge science

• It may be a cliche of domestic conflict, but physicists recently, earnestly, tackled the dynamics of toilet bowl "splash back." A stream delivered by a standing male, because it travels five times farther than a seated male's, produces a splash easily reaching seat and floor — even without factoring in the "well-known" Plateau-Rayleigh instability — the inevitable disintegration of a liquid stream "six or seven inches" after its formation. Short of recommending that men be seated, the researchers (speaking to a November conference) suggest "narrowing the angle" by "standing slightly to one side and aiming downwards at a low angle of impact."

• The Human-Rodent Connection: University of British Columbia researchers, intent on judging whether blocking dopamine D4 receptors can reduce the urge to gamble in subjects other than humans, claimed in October to have devised a test that works on the dopamine receptors of rats -- especially those with a gambling problem. With a slot machine-like device dispensing sugar pellets, the researchers claimed they offered rats measured risks and even determined that rats are more likely to take risks immediately following a close loss (as are humans).

Medical marvels

Seven years ago, Michael Spann, now 29, suddenly doubled over in pain that felt like he "got hit in the head with a sledgehammer," and began crying blood. Despite consulting doctors, including two visits with extensive lab work at the venerable Cleveland Clinic, the Antioch, Tenn., man told Nashville's The Tennessean in October that he is resigned to an "idiopathic condition" — a disease without apparent cause. Spann's main wish now is just to hold a job, in that fellow workers, and customers, tend not to react well to a man bleeding from the eyes (even though his once-daily episodes have become more sporadic).

The Kingdom

Nirmala Toppo, 14, is apparently the one to call if wild elephants overrun your village, especially in India's Orissa and Jharkhand states, which are still home to hundreds of marauding pachyderms. Her latest pied-piper act, in June, emptied a herd of 11 out of the industrial city of Rourkela. Said Toppo: "First I pray and then talk to the herd. I tell them this is not your home. You should return where you belong." Somehow, the elephants followed her for miles away from the town, according to an October BBC News dispatch.

Perspective

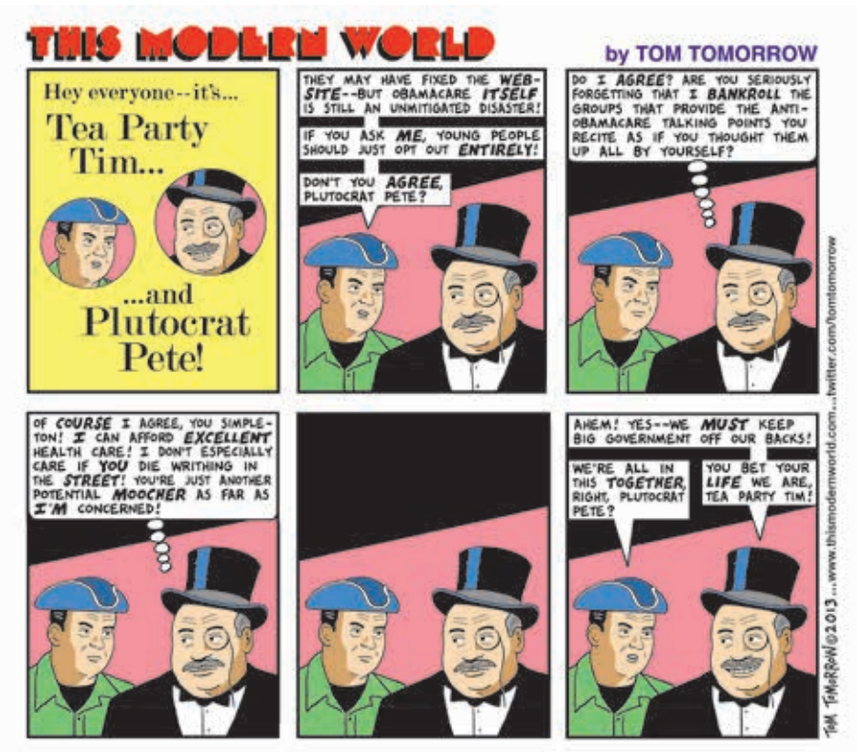
The daunting problems that faced the launch of the HealthCare.gov website in October were merely symptoms of the federal government's often snail-like pace at integrating digital innovations common to everyday America. A December New York Times report revealed that The Federal Register (the daily journal of the U.S. government) still receives original content from some agencies on virtually obsolete 3.5-inch floppy disks — and (because of unamended legal requirements) its work-order authorizations from some agencies on disks hand-delivered inside the Washington Beltway by courier. Contractors can be frustrated as well since, though they operate with top-of-the-line digital efficiency internally, they must sometimes downgrade to interface with their government clients.

Least competent criminals

• An already-distinctive man (367 pounds) was arrested in Everett, Wash., for a December grocery store shoplifting because he was also wearing an easily noticed purple sock and over two hours later was still wearing it when police caught up to him and questioned him.

• A 23-year-old woman was arrested in Crestview, Fla., in November for shoplifting a "toy" from an adult store — before inquiring about a job there. She had professed her innocence until shown the surveillance video, when she said (according to the police report), "Oh, my God. Look at what I'm doing. ... I'm gonna cry."

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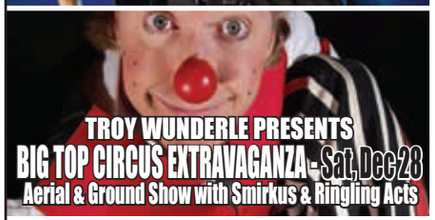
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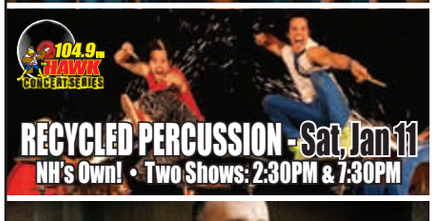




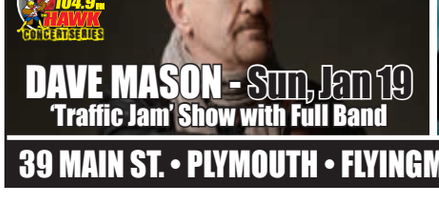


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